



EQUESTRIAN CANADA ÉQUESTRE

DRESSAGE QUARTERLY REPORT

APRIL 2020

Volume 4, Issue 1

Canada

WELCOME TO THIS FIRST ISSUE OF THE 2020 DRESSAGE QUARTERLY REPORT

The Dressage Quarterly Report is an initiative of the Equestrian Canada (EC) Dressage Committee to share information and communicate with dressage enthusiasts. 2020 is shaping up as a year to remember – from the postponement of the Olympic Games to July 23-Aug 8, 2021, to the impacts of the COVID-19 virus. Watch the EC website for regular updates.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

SUBMITTED BY VICTORIA WINTER

The Dressage Committee recently held its annual face-to-face planning meeting in Ottawa, ON. There were lots of items on the agenda including competition schedule planning, the alignment of our competition structure with long term athlete development, the annual awards and recognition program, strategies for improving communication, and event planning.

At each of our meetings, whether face-to-face or by conference call, we start with a round table discussion. This is a time when each committee member can bring forward issues or questions that have been brought to their attention by the dressage community. The cross section of our committee members means that we are regularly discussing issues arising in different areas of the country and from all levels of riders, coaches, owners and show organizers. We encourage you to reach out to any of our committee members with issues that you would like us to address.

We would also encourage you to review the section in the Dressage Quarterly Report which lists the departments at EC that have primary responsibility for certain areas. For example, we regularly receive questions or comments on matters pertaining to Officials. It is important to note that all matters relating

to Officials are under the purview of the EC Technical Department and, as a result, any questions or requests for information are best addressed directly to that department.

Finally, plans for the 2020 Dressage Levy Performance Advantage Symposium are questionable given the current state of the COVID-19 virus. -

2020 EC DRESSAGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Victoria Winter (Chair)
– Toronto, ON
– DressageCommittee@equestrian.ca

Kimberly Cox – Calgary, AB

Susan Fraser – Port Williams, NS

April Harris – Astorville, ON

Ron King – Ottawa, ON

Joan Macartney – Manotick, ON

Alison Martin – North Vancouver, BC

Sheila Skene – Victoria, BC

Birgit Valkenborg – Sainte-Marthe, QC

EC Staff Member – Christine Peters



THE EC OFFICE IS MOVING!

Effective May 1, 2020



OUR NEW

ADDRESS:

201-11

**HINES ROAD,
KANATA, ON
K2K 2X1**

EC staff phone numbers and emails will remain the same.

QUARTERLY CONTRIBUTORS

EDITORIAL CONTENT PROVIDED BY:

Susan Holtby, Christine Peters, Chase Robertson, Sheila Skene, Victoria Winter, Joan Macartney, Lindsey Blakely

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY:

Chase Robertson (incl. photo by Terri Miller and Cealy Tetley), Vanderydt family.

EC CONTACTS

Contact details, photos and biographies can be found for all EC staff at the following link: www.equestrian.ca/about/contact.

A quick overview of staff contacts for the dressage and technical portfolios are highlighted below:

**Christine Peters, Senior Manager
Dressage**

Olympic / Paralympic Program
cpeters@equestrian.ca

**Celine Hutchison Majerus,
Program Coordinator, Dressage**
chmajerus@equestrian.ca

Officials, Rules

**Coordinator, Technical Programs –
Officials and Rules**

Lindsey Blakely
lblakely@equestrian.ca

Coaching

**Coordinator, Technical Programs –
Coaching and Education**

Helen Richardson
hrichardson@equestrian.ca

Competitions

Coordinator, Competition Services

Maria-Christina Lepore
mclapore@equestrian.ca

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

SUBMITTED BY CHASE ROBERTSON

In this issue, we are pleased to highlight Chase Robertson of Calgary, AB, and her progress through the dressage levels, a highlight being achieving the gold medal for the Freestyle at the North American Youth Championships (NAYC) in 2018. Here is her story:

“Throughout my years of riding, my highest success was riding for Canada as an individual rider with my horse Winsome at the NAYC in summer 2018 in the Junior division. Winsome and I placed in the top 10 individually in the Team test, then won the bronze medal in the Individual test and then a gold medal in the Freestyle.



For four years I worked towards my dream of competing at NAYC, which included going to California for the winters for training and competitions. The winter before NAYC I spent in California training and competing and had the most amazing time and won at each competition.

The 2018 NAYC when I was 16 years old is



something that will forever and always hold such a special place in my heart after I worked towards it for four years. I also was able to compete in the 2019 NAYC in the Young Rider division with my old horse, Diplomat. It was an amazing and valuable

experience. Diplomat and I placed fifth on Team Alberta in the Team test, 13th in the Individual test and eighth in the Freestyle. It was so cool to share the victory field on Freestyle day with riders I had always looked up to with a new horse in a new division.

If you work hard enough, anything is possible. As the saying goes, work until your idols become your rivals. I've also had the privilege to ride in

lessons with top riders such as Charlotte Dujardin, Guenter Seidel, Ulf Möller and Albrecht Heidemann, and was invited to perform my gold medal Freestyle in front of Carl Hester – all highlights of my dressage career.

My first introduction to horses was trail riding in the mountains with my family, which led to the purchase of my first horse, a small jumping pony named Dewey that basically did anything you asked him to. I competed in jumping and dressage competitions with Dewey but felt more at home in the dressage ring. Once I outgrew him, we rescued a horse named Winston and he taught me the ropes of dressage and helped me develop as a rider and horse owner. It was with him that I set my goal to represent Canada at NAYC.

I took him to California two winters in a row and trained First and Second level as he was an older horse who couldn't go higher. During the second winter, I began to look for horses with Verena Mahin from VS Dressage in California and we found Winsome (whom I took to NAYC 2018).

During my first ride on Winsome, I knew he was the one regardless of the spooking he did during my ride.

There was



something about us that clicked. I remember cooling him out after I first rode him and I looked in the mirror in the arena and said, "Wow, I'd be so lucky if I got to ever call you mine." Even to this day, there is nothing in my life that even comes close to the love and connection I have with him. He truly is my heart horse and I do plan on getting a tattoo dedicated to him at some point in my life.

Winsome was the horse that took me to NAYC 2018 and helped me achieve a bronze and gold medal, which I never ever expected in my wildest dreams. My heart bursts with happiness and love whenever I get to talk about Winsome or when I spend time with him. I don't know how to describe the feeling. I just feel so complete with him.

In Grades 8 and 9, I was in a normal school system and would only miss a month of school to go to California with my horse.

When we purchased Winsome, I needed to go to California longer in order to achieve my qualifying scores for the 2018 NAYC, so for Grade 10, I moved to the National Sport School in Calgary, AB. I was able to go away for months at a time and still access school via computer.

The National Sport School is designed for athletes like me who miss longer periods of time, as the information learned in class is also online and tape recordings of lessons are available online, as well. The teachers are very flexible and will sit down with you to work out a plan that best benefits you and your schedule. The National Sport School is the main reason why I am graduating on time and taking Grade 13.

I didn't ever have much of a social life, as I was either at school or at the barn. I had the privilege of training with Pia Fortmuller six days a week, so my friends were the girls at the barn. My social life was technically going to the barn to ride and see teammates. My

whole family was very supportive of me being a high performance athlete, so they were just as involved as I was with the sport in the behind-the-scenes world, and they travelled with me to competitions and to California in the winters.

This current school year is my final year of high school, so I decided to take a step back from riding to focus solely on school, as I need to work extra hard for my grades.

We sold my Young Rider horse, Diplomat, and my mom took over Winsome for me. I still ride Winsome when I can, but I needed to focus on school in hopes of moving out of province for university, which paid off. I got early acceptance into my dream school, University of British Columbia, at the Okanagan campus. I will be moving to Kelowna, BC, in the fall and I'm very excited!

My future plans as of right now are to go away for university but actively ride in the summer and possibly find a barn in Kelowna to work at and ride some horses once I'm in the groove of university. Once I finish university in four years, I would like to take a year off to compete in the U25 division in Florida, as that is still a goal of mine.

I am already listening to music to make my U25 Freestyle! I would love to get back into the competition circuit. I always want to have horses in my life and actively ride them even when I have a job. I want to go into the veterinary field as a veterinary technician in the equine side, which has always been a passion of mine. I think that will always allow me to have horses and compete."

Thanks, Chase, for sharing your road through the dressage levels and your successes. We wish you all the best as to head off to university and continue to highlight your dressage goals.

LET'S DO A RULES UPDATE

SUBMITTED BY SHEILA SKENE

One big change this year is the requirement that horses attending all EC sanctioned competitions must have been vaccinated for Equine Influenza and Equine Herpes Virus (1 & 4) in accordance with Article A519 Vaccinations.

Most of you will have read the EC bulletin about this earlier in the year but, knowing how easy it is to leave the timing of vaccinations until close to your first competition dates, here are the main details:

- Vaccinate/administer a booster within six (6) months (+21 grace period) before arrival at the event.
- No horse is to receive vaccination within seven (7) days prior to arrival at the event.
- Horses not in compliance may be asked to leave the event at the discretion of the Competition Management.

Do read the entire article for complete details and be aware that every EC sanctioned competition prize list will state the vaccination requirement and will include in the entry waiver form the requirement that the Person Responsible certifies that "every



horse listed has met the requirements of Article A519 Vaccinations.”

It seems we have only just finished the 2020 rule revision cycle and are already thinking of the next cycle. If you have any suggestions on how the rules can be improved or made clearer, do start thinking about them so they can be included when the request comes out in May.

RIISING STARS YOUTH DRESSAGE YEAR END REFLECTIONS: A LOOK BACK – AND A LOOK FORWARD

SUBMITTED BY SUSAN HOLTBY

Did you know that most New Years’ resolutions last an average of 21 days? For sure we aren’t calling our plans for Rising Stars (RS) 2020 a New Years resolution!

2020 is not just a new year, but the start of a new decade. And this prompted us to look back at the last 10 years, not only from the perspective of lessons learned, but to reflect on how far we have come. It’s a strong reminder that anything is possible if you have the will to do it and a good plan!

Looking back a decade:

By the time 2010 rolled around, the RS Youth Dressage Show had been going strong for seven years. It had become the go-to show for youth dressage competitors in British Columbia. In 2010, we hosted the National Youth Dressage Championships and had a record 120 youth competitors, including riders from BC, Alberta and Washington. As the show grew so did our sponsorship, programming and branding. In 2016, we launched our new RS logo. We also became aware during those years that maybe, just

maybe, there was something about RS that could be expanded beyond the BC border.

Something special:

In 2015 that ‘something’ was created by the RS committee: It was the RS Youth Dressage Equitation program. The new equitation program was piloted at the RS show in 2016 and 2017, and at the Ottawa Dressage Festival in 2018. At that point, talks were underway with EC to consider the RS Equitation program as a national dressage youth development program. In 2019, that came to fruition.

A change was in the air:

The development of the RS Equitation program brought about internal discussions about whether we should carry on with our annual show or think more broadly about taking the RS Equitation program out to competitions around the province. We decided to make 2017 the final RS show and instead take RS out to where youth dressage riders live and compete.

It’s been an amazing experience; we have learned so much, met great show organizers, sponsors, parents and, of course, youth competitors.

Since the RS Equitation program was recognized by EC, our focus has been to bring the RS Youth Dressage experience to provinces across Canada and encourage dressage youth across the country to join in. So far, BC, Alberta and Ontario are participating.

Looking forward, planning ahead:



This brings us to 2020 and the question, “Where do you see Rising Stars Youth Dressage in 10 years?” A question that could easily overwhelm if it were not for the strong support to continue this program and the necessity to build more youth involvement in our sport.

Let’s start with our immediate plans for 2020:

- We have redesigned our equitation score sheet to make it more user friendly for judges and scribes. We have simplified the scoring and re-oriented the page. We are working on a judging directive document to accompany the score sheet.
- The RS Equitation program can be offered at provincially sanctioned shows and EC sanctioned shows (Bronze/Silver/Gold).
- We will send information about RS Youth Dressage and the equitation program to PTSOs across the country. We will be seeking help from the PTSOs to get the word out to show organizers in their provinces/territories about the RS Program.
- We will be adding a nine-and-under age category to both provincial and EC sanctioned shows. We believe this category will be offered primarily at provincial and Bronze shows. Full details to be published in the 2020 Handbook.

Yes, there will be a 2020 Handbook. We hope to have it published soon. If show

organizers need information, please contact either:

Sue Holtby: rivndell@smartt.email

or

Wendy Christoff:

wkchristoff@gmail.com

Sponsorship:

Sponsorship is always in the discussion and a work in progress. Our program relies on sponsorship whether at the local, provincial or national level. It is because of the generosity of our sponsors this program can move forward. More sponsorship information coming soon

Kids say the darndest things:



PHOTO CREDIT: VANDERYDT FAMILY

PICTURED ABOVE IS A VERY HAPPY RS EQUITATION COMPETITOR, NINE-YEAR-OLD LAILANI VANDERYDT, AND DRESSAGE JUDGE AND RS COMMITTEE MEMBER, CAT ARMITAGE

Perhaps our best feedback in 2019 came by way of nine-year-old Leilani Vanderydt, a very determined dressage enthusiast from Kamloops, BC. She was looking forward to

competing in the RS Equitation program but found out that the program did not include a nine-and-under age category. Undeterred, she asked the question, “Why not?” Well, we heard Leilani and we agree! Why not. Youth can change our world!

Building the future, the way forward:

This is an entire discussion in itself. A wise person once said, “Build a program structure that will stay intact even when people come and go.” Little did we know when we began this journey in 2004 that we were building a program structure for youth dressage.

We believe the years of work we have done have created a strong foundation. To build on this foundation we need to take RS to the next level to meet our ultimate objective: a thriving youth sector in our sport. The way forward, therefore, is to have the dressage community deem youth involvement in our sport a high priority. Doing that will make the next 10 years look promising, indeed!

A FEW RANDOM QUIZ QUESTIONS

1. Can a horse or pony be ridden by different riders in the same class?
2. Are only half and full points used in scoring Freestyles?
3. Are stewards required at Bronze competitions?
4. If your coach is also a judge, can you enter a class in front of him/her?
5. In para-dressage, are companion horses allowed?

ANSWERS:

1. No – E 7.11.8.1, E 7.11.8.4, as a pony cannot compete against itself.

2. No – E 10.4 1, half and full points only are used for Technical Execution, but 1/10 points may also be used for Artistic Impression.
3. Yes – E 15.2.1.
4. It depends – E 14.1 and 2, if you received coaching within 30 days of the competition, then no, you could not. If you had not been coached for more than 30 days, then yes, you could. It is your responsibility to make the correct decision.
5. Yes – E 6.8.4, for Grade I, II and III, if circumstances allow, a companion horse may stand adjacent to the arena.

UPCOMING CLINICS

Clinic: EC/HCBC Dressage Judges Updating Clinic

Clinician: Joan Macartney (EC Senior Dressage Judge)

Date: Postponed – new date TBA

LOCATION: ABBOTSFORD, BC

**** NOTE: THIS CLINIC IS FOR BC PROVINCIAL JUDGES AND “R” AND SB EC JUDGES.**

Clinic: Dressage Judges Updating Clinic

Clinician: TBA

Date: Postponed

– new date Fall/Winter 2020 TBA

Location: Quebec

Plans for Officials clinics are underway and will be finalized once information regarding the resumption of activities can be confirmed.

Keep up to date with the various clinic plans through the EC clinics page:

<https://www.equestrian.ca/events-results/clinics>



CELEBRATION OF OUR 2019 DRESSAGE VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH WINNERS

FEBRUARY	MARCH- APRIL	MAY
 <p>Ann Galt - Ottawa, ON A tireless and selfless volunteer on the OADG (Ottawa Area Dressage Group) Board and as Show Director.</p>	 <p>Jill Irving – Moncton, NB Congratulations on the 5th Anniversary of the Jill Irving Youth Equine Mentor Program.</p>	 <p>Lesley Cruickshank – Brockville, ON Very active in Pony Club in a variety of roles and a regular and much requested judge's scribe in Ontario and Quebec.</p>
JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 <p>Suzanne Wallace – Vernon, BC Suzanne leads the organization of the Vernon & District Riding Club annual Gold & Bronze Dressage Competition</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The High Performance Advisory Group to the medal winning 2019 Pan American Games Team:</i> <i>Victoria Winter, Joan Macartney, Wendy Christoff, Dr. Geoff Vernon and Christine Peters.</i></p>	 <p>Siobhan O'Connor – Medicine Hat, Alberta Chinook Country Dressage Director for the Medicine Hat area & Director of the Alberta Dressage Assoc..</p>



CELEBRATION OF OUR 2019 DRESSAGE VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH WINNERS

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
 <p>Jane Casson – Belleville, ON An active Board member and Secretary of the Quinte-St.Lawrence Branch CADORA (QSLB)</p>	 <p>Georgie Jones - Stirling, ON A board member of the Quinte-St.Lawrence Branch CADORA (QSLB) also serving as show secretary and Treasurer.</p>	 <p>Jenny Carol – National Dressage Pony Cup A tireless champion for youth, ponies and a dressage ambassador through the National Dressage Pony Cup social medial site.</p>
DECEMBER	M.H. LESSARD 2019 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR	
 <p>Catherine Maguire – Almonte, ON President of the Ottawa Area Dressage Group a chapter of Cadora Inc. (OADG) Is a long time excellent scribe for the Ottawa Dressage Festival.</p>	 <p>Sheila Skene –Victoria, BC Member of the EC Dressage Committee primarily attending to the rules portfolio.</p>	
		<p>About the Volunteer of the month program</p> <p><i>The Volunteer of the Month program was started in January 2015 and has been managed by Sheila Skene since then. It is with pleasure that we now announce that effective for 2020, the reins will be taken over by fellow EC Dressage Committee Member Kimberley Cox of Calgary, Alberta.</i></p>

