



## **2017 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR, PRESENTED BY HENRY EQUESTRIAN: THE CENTAUR RED TEAM**



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).

The Centaur Red Team has earned the Volunteer of the Year Award for 2017. This faithful and diverse group of volunteers has been selflessly donating their time to dressage competitions at Centaur Riding School in Navan, ON for over 44 years.

From scribes, whippers-in and show secretaries to scorers, announcers and ring groomers - and everything in between - the Centaur Red Team has dedicated their time, energy and effort to help Centaur Riding School host up to 10 competitions per year for the good and growth of Canadian dressage.

The Centaur competitions range from EC Bronze to Gold level, and through the hard work of the Centaur Red Team, have provided dressage athletes of all levels with the opportunity to compete in a welcoming, low-key atmosphere. In the early years, with dressage competitions being few and far between, this led to many experienced athletes traveling from as far away as Montreal, Quebec City, Toronto, and even the



United States in order to provide young and inexperienced horses with a positive introduction to competition. Many of the riders and horses who have passed through the in-gate at Centaur have gone on to represent Canada at the top level of the sport.

Today, with the tremendous growth of dressage competitions at the grassroots level, the competitors at Centaur competitions are mostly local. Through these competitions, the Centaur Red Team has contributed to thousands of budding equestrians learning the ropes at safe and friendly competitions.

By the numbers, the Centaur Red Team has donated over 95,000 hours to 440 competitions, helping to make competition a reality for thousands of dressage athletes.

"I wish to show my gratitude to the Centaur Red Team, a wonderful group of dedicated people who make the existence of these shows a possibility," said Shirley Guertin, owner of Centaur Riding School. "The Centaur Red Team has met a need for over four decades for all levels of dressage. They come from all walks of life and range in age from eight to 85. They have always been a committed and reliable group ready to serve and contribute to the growth of the sport."

Shirley continued, "Thank you to Tami O'Dette, Guylaine Bernard, Laurie Carslaw, Nicole Gervais, Monica Kulas, Noemie Tremblay, Mona Kitz, Caroline and Chantal Lanthier, Morgan Bordillon, Pasquale Donovan, Ava Riedel, Angele Alain, Katie Neilipovitz, Katy Bothwell, Zoe Matthews, Catherine Demers, Milena Hayman, Claire Hamilton, Anna Kanellos, Danica Barry, Sophia Trites, Nathalie Savard, Caroline Reekie, Carolyne DuPont, Valerie Arsenault, Abbey Gaumont, Natalie Fleece and Rowan Hughes - just to name a few!"

EC thanks the Centaur Red Team for their longstanding service and dedication to dressage in Canada, and is thrilled to provide the Centaur Red Team with the 2017 Volunteer of the Year Award.