

Christina Dolinski



I started being apart of the horse industry since I was a small child. I was involved in my you with 4-H, and by the time I was 13 years old I was competing provincial on the Arabian breed circuit. By the time I turned 18 I had competed across Canada and as far a California, qualifying for the Canadian Arabian Nationals in Dressage, Hunter and Arabian costume. Over the years I grew to love the equine sport more and more especially Dressage. I still ride today at 36 years of age in the local competition ring with my own horses, and other owners. I have dedicate my life to teaching beginner riders, sharing my passion and helping others achieve their competitive goals in the local hunter and dressage arenas. I grew up in a Family owned Equestrian Business and have recently started my own Equestrian facility. I have been an active part in the community by volunteering on the Dressage Winnipeg Board for the past six years, and the Manitoba Horse Council Coaching committee for the past 4 years.

Horses will always be apart of my life as well as my husbands (I dragged him in when we met 9 years ago, interestingly enough he wasn't kicking and screaming). We hope that our son will also grow to love the beauty and tranquility the horses can offer. Today my husband and I run a stable out of a small facility we rent. It is not only a business anymore, it is a lifestyle and a very large extended family. Our clients are part of our extended family and the support they show ourselves and others has been very overwhelming, sometimes even hard to believe. Many of the kids are even talking about making careers out of their hobby, simply because they love it so much!

Training for this sport requires dedication and physical fitness. Training on a regular basis is a must for both the horse and rider. The sport is not only a human athlete and equipment, it is about a second Equine partner who can't speak but only use body language to communicate their needs. Anyone who competes under me must ride a minimum of 3 times per week, and do some other exercise to cross train in-between. This is not a cheap sport, so parents who have children in this sport, or even adults must have disposable income of a minimum of \$800/month just to maintain their horse. This is of course after their initial investment probably starting at a minimum of \$5,000.00 or more. Plus if they have a desire to compete they need to decide what level they are wishing to achieve (local, provincial, travel out of province, maybe international (going to the US)), this all comes at additional costs. The rider's who fight for every bit of disposable income they can resource are the one's who would benefit for the sponsorship the most, helping to reduce costs of showing, and possibly allowing more riders to compete by keeping the show costs down.

Equine-related achievements...

- 1990- MAHA High point Champion Part bred Native Costume
- 1992- AAHA High point Champion Part bred Show Hack
- 1995- became a certified level 1 Western Coach with Equine Canada
- 1999- became a recorded Steward and volunteered at the 1999 Pan American Games in Winnipeg
- 2001- became a Certified Level 1 English Coach with Equine Canada
- 2004- earned status as a dressage steward from Equine Canada
- 2004- achieved Manitoba Horse Council English Coach of the year award
- 2005- achieved open training level championship
- 2005- became a Mentor for assisting new coaches and instructor's to become certified in the industry.
- 2006- became one of 3 NCCP Learning facilitors – Instructor of Beginners in Manitoba for the New Sport Specific NCCP coaching program.

