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WINTER 2011 | OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF DRESSAGE WINNIPEG

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# Volunteer & Sponsor reception and AGM, November 18, 2010

A combination volunteer, sponsor reception and annual general meeting was held Thursday evening, November 18 at the Greenwood Inn. Awards were given out to the many hardworking volunteers who go above and beyond their volunteer hour requirement to keep our favourite volunteer sport organization going.

A new DW board was brought in at the AGM held after the reception. At the first executive meeting in December, members offered their time for the various position portfolios.

<b>Chairperson</b>	Cheryl Heming
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Heather Thomas
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sue Matthews
<b>Secretary</b>	Liane Parker
<b>Show Chair</b>	Myriam Dyck
<b>Publicity &amp; Sponsorship</b>	Jane Fudge
<b>Newsletter</b>	Lindsay Feller
<b>Volunteers</b>	Sheryl Feller
<b>Volunteer Committee</b>	Susan Canal
<b>Membership</b>	Alexa Clayton
<b>Education</b>	Megan Nunn & Sandra Hobday
<b>Member at Large</b>	Eileen Bosma
<b>Manitoba Horse Council</b>	Jane Fudge
<b>MHC Bingo</b>	Cheryl Heming
<b>Dressage Canada</b>	Liane Parker

## Wishing all Dressage Winnipeg competitors best of luck this season.



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The new board is meeting monthly to get the 2011 membership, the new show season and some educational events organized. Please check your website for regular news. A special thank goes out to our past board for all their hard work in 2010. The new chair can be contacted by email at [cheryl@dressagewinnipeg](mailto:cheryl@dressagewinnipeg)

# 2011 – What's Up

## NEW DRESSAGE TESTS FOR 2011 SHOW SEASON

Equine Canada has announced new dressage tests at Training through Fourth levels for the upcoming season. Only three tests are available for each of these levels for the upcoming season. The new tests are became effective December 1, 2010 and available for download at the EC website: [www.equinecanada/dressage/dressage-tests/table/dressage-tests/](http://www.equinecanada/dressage/dressage-tests/table/dressage-tests/)

## 2011 SHOWS

Dates, judges and the Manitoba Horse Council facility are being confirmed for the three bronze/gold dressage shows to be held next year on May 7& 8, June 25 & 26 and September 10th and 11th.

Following the recommendations of the 2010 DW board of directors, the new board has already taken a hard look at the issue of the August Show which was cancelled in 2010 due to low entries.

2011 show season proposals are looking at an EC bronze partnership show, a week later, on August 19 & 20. Scores would still be recognized for awards of excellence. Show details will be posted on the website.

Dressage Winnipeg will also recognize member tests from other EC sanctioned shows for the DW 'awards of excellence' program.

## DRESSAGE WINNIPEG MEMBERSHIP

DW membership will see a couple of changes for 2011 including a reduction in volunteer hours from 12 to 8 per member.

Bingos are back as a volunteer hour option in 2011. Usually only 3 hours long at the McPhillips or Regent Avenue Casinos in Winnipeg– these bingos are fundraisers for DW.

Also available for volunteer time hours is the Dressage component of the MHC East West Challenge held later in September. A downloadable membership will be available after the first week of January on the website.

## NEWS FROM WESTMAN

Westman Cadora met the last weekend of November for their Annual General meeting. Items of note from that meeting include a new name change to Westman Dressage and the announcement of two shows in the Brandon area for 2011. A discovery show will be held in mid-July at a location in the region.

For the first time in several years – an EC recognized Gold/Bronze is being organized for October 1 and 2 at the Keystone Center. This unique, all indoor show hopes to schedule tests morning, afternoon and evenings to take advantage of this great facility. Rumour has it that they are importing an Ottawa based judge. Westman has their own website at [www.westmancadorna.com](http://www.westmancadorna.com)

## 2011 BOARD

### CHAIRPERSON

Cheryl Heming  
email | [cheryl@dressagewinnipeg.com](mailto:cheryl@dressagewinnipeg.com)

### VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Heather Thomas  
email | [heather@dressagewinnipeg.com](mailto:heather@dressagewinnipeg.com)

### SECRETARY

Liane Parker  
email | [liane@dressagewinnipeg.com](mailto:liane@dressagewinnipeg.com)

### SHOW CHAIRPERSON

Myriam Dyck  
email | [myriam@dressagewinnipeg.com](mailto:myriam@dressagewinnipeg.com)

### TREASURER

Sue Matthews  
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### EDUCATION & CLINICS

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email | [sandra\\_h@dressagewinnipeg.com](mailto:sandra_h@dressagewinnipeg.com)

### VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Sheryl Feller & Susan Canal  
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email | [susan@dressagewinnipeg.com](mailto:susan@dressagewinnipeg.com)

### MEMBERSHIP

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### MEMBER AT LARGE

Eileen Bosma  
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### SHOW SECRETARY

Cat Fouillard

### SPONSORSHIP & MANITOBA HORSE COUNCIL REP.

Jane Fudge  
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### DE KENYERES PROGRAM

Merelyn Hunkin  
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### DRESSAGE CANADA REP.

Cheryl Heming  
email | [cheryl@dressagewinnipeg.com](mailto:cheryl@dressagewinnipeg.com)

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Barb Wansbutter

Have you ever wondered what your Board of Directors do? Does something pique your interest? Contact the appropriate chair/committee member.

# Winners of the Captain De Kenyeres Scholarship Program Essay Contest Winners

Once again the Captain De Kenyeres Scholarship Program essay contest allowed young participants a chance to shine outside the ring.

This year's winners in the 11 - 15 year-old category are **KYRA SCHAMBER AND ALICIA ENNS**

In the 16-21 year-old category **EMMA TARVIS AND ALEXA CLAYTON** took home the prizes.

Congratulations!

*Read Alexa & Emma's winning essays on pages 22 & 23!*



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***Kyra Schamber***  
(11-15 category)



***Alicia Enns***  
(11-15 category)



***Alexa Clayton***  
(16-21 category)



***Emma Tarvis***  
(16-21 category)



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- 7) VIP Ringside Hospitality / Meet & Greet with Riders
- 8) Sponsor Award Division at Year End
- 9) Sponsor One Division at One Show
- 10) Scholarship
- 11) Tickets to Awards Dinner & Gala

For information on Show Title Rights:  
please contact Dressage Winnipeg!

**For sponsorship inquiries please contact:**

**Dressage Winnipeg**

Contact Jane Fudge

(204) 275-8794

[jane@dressagewinnipeg.com](mailto:jane@dressagewinnipeg.com)

**Thank you for your generous contribution.**



2011

## SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT

### Dressage Winnipeg

Contact Jane Fudge

(204) 275-8794

[jane@dressagewinnipeg.com](mailto:jane@dressagewinnipeg.com)

***Thank you for your generous contribution.***

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## THE STRETCHY CIRCLE IN TRAINING AND FIRST LEVEL

*By Lorraine Stubbs*

**M**any riders and coaches use the term “stretchy circle” to describe the forward and downward 20 metre circle in rising trot which appears in training tests 3 and 4 and First level.

Though not the term used in the test it does attach a feeling and a visual picture to the movement which is very catchy. It has often been described as riding low and deep, or low and round. Which description best fits the exercise depends on the coach and rider’s training and experience - you choose.

It is a very important part of the training level tests since it is a co-efficient movement (worth double marks) and the only other movement so weighted is the free walk. Forty marks are decided in these two exercises.

### ***So you ask, why the fuss? Why is it so important?***

When ridden correctly following the tests directives, the stretchy circle shows that the horse is supple and relaxed and that the rider is in control ; that the horse is being ridden from the “back to the front”; that energy is coming from the hindquarters and flowing forward over the back up the bit.

The diagram on page 26 of the 2010 Competitions Handbook is a beauty. It shows a horse “tracking up” (hindfeet into the prints of the forefeet), a uniform arch over the back starting at the base of the tail and ending at the poll which is lower than the wither. The horse’s nose is slightly ahead of the vertical and is between the shoulder and the knee. There is also a straight line from the rider’s elbow to the bit.

In addition to these positives the judge also wants to see an accurate, round circle and a trot tempo remaining the same before, during and after the circle is executed.

In my judging career I have only given 10 two times in this exercise and I can still remember the horse, the riders and the show where I gave these marks. More often than not, marks of eight and higher are the exception not the norm. If the horse stretches “out”, but not “down” there is no roundness over the back, so the back is not showing any stretch or suppleness. The outline is very flat and straight so the mark cannot be very high.

If the horse stays “curled”, the neck short or tight without lengthening this is also not the criteria for a high mark ....it sometimes looks as if the horse has been in draw-reins for too long so is fixed in that position and hasn’t been allowed to stretch very much in its training. But at the same time maybe the rider can’t relax the contact or lengthen the reins because if they do, they will lose control and the horse quickens the tempo, even takes off! I sometimes see horses, which show “down “but not “out”- very overbent and on the forehand. Balance and suppleness are again not being shown to the judge, so how can you expect high marks?

A lot of questions have been raised over the contact in this movement - just how much contact is considered “light”. If the reins are loose there is no contact and the rider is not influencing the horse.

The horse isn’t supposed to be turned loose to gaze into the audience and lose attention (and submission). Reins should be lengthened gradually “allowing” the horse to stretch and after maintaining a “consistent stretch, (the head not bobbing up and down) the rider shortens the reins so that the horse regains the same balance and carriage it had before the circle. The horse should be still chewing softly on the bit because the connection with the rider is still maintained.

If you want to be good at this movement and get consistently high scores you really need to practice this exercise every time you ride. It should be a part of your everyday training. I always get my student to use the stretchy circle at the end of the training session. After muscles are contracted and shortened, stretching should follow to avoid stiffness and tension. The stretchy circle can be used whenever its needed to confirm suppleness, relaxation and balance (self-carriage) at any level of training, and any age.

Practice according to the criteria outlined every time you ride and you and your horse will succeed. Perhaps a 10 lies in your future.

# Our Journey of a Lifetime

## CREATING THE NEW WEST WIND STABLES

By Chris Dolinski

Life continually offers opportunities to help us grow. Creating West Wind Stables has led us down a new path in our life journey. After two years of hard work, laughter and tears, we can finally see our dream becoming more tangible and real with each passing day.

Two years ago, we settled into our temporary home at Teske's Equestrian Centre. Margaret Teske graciously welcomed us into her iconic facility and has been constantly supportive as we laboured to make our dream a reality. Without Margaret and her sons (Mike and Marc), who knows where our journey would have taken us.

The last two years have been very busy. With strong financial support, we explored the area southwest of Winnipeg, eventually discovering our new home in Oak Bluff, on 160 acres of land within sight of the perimeter. Our explorations gave us first hand knowledge of most of the dirt roads on the south and West sides of Winnipeg.

Every step - meetings, phone calls and even letters - had its own learning curve, and just when you mastered one skill, another challenge took its place. As such, the "non-horsey" members of the group have received a

near constant education regarding the inner workings of a business in the horse industry, from management of money to methods of dealing with copious quantities of a horse's most natural "resource". The more experienced members have had to grow and adapt as well, in order to respond to the demands associated with creating a new entity, quite literally, from the ground up.

We are now prepping for the final stages of the first leg of our journey which will last a lifetime. We have designed a facility that will hold 58 horses and incorporate luxuries that owners and lovers of horses will appreciate. We are a family-based facility where friends and family can gather and enjoy a common love - the horse. We are committed to growth of the equine industry in Manitoba. We offer boarding facilities, as well as, riding lessons for all levels of riders. From the novice to the competitor, we offer a place for everyone.

We want to thank everyone who has made this journey possible and helped us build our vision. We have learned from this once-in-a-lifetime experience that every bump in the road is a life lesson. One must embrace it, learn from it and continue to live the dream.

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*Wishing all the Dressage Winnipeg Riders Good Luck this show season!*

# A Second Chance

## OFF TRACK THOROUGHBREDS GETS NEW HOMES THANKS TO TWO WINNIPEG WOMEN

The next time you are at a horse show, look to your left and then to your right. Chances are, one of those horses used to have a career as a race horse. Former race horses, also known as OTTBs (Off Track Thoroughbreds), have traditionally been used in the English disciplines as the race track provided a constant and reasonably-priced source of sport horses. Although the increase of European-style Warmbloods in North America has forced the Thoroughbred to make room for the Warmblood, one can still find many Thoroughbreds having successful second careers as hunters, jumpers, eventers, barrel racers, polo ponies and dressage horses.

There are several advantages to the OTTB. Horses from the racetrack will have been bathed, bandaged, blanketed and tied to hot walkers. They will have become accustomed to traffic and to the life of a stabled horse. Also, if the horse is still sound following a race track career, it has certainly demonstrated that it will withstand the demands of sport.

The number of Thoroughbreds available for sale increases in the fall as the racing season comes to a close. Owners and trainers will be looking to sell any that did not meet performance standards during the last race meet. In the past it has been difficult to even know which horses were for sale as access to the backstretch of a track is limited. In order to shop for Thoroughbreds, the potential buyer had to either know the trainer or owner, or have a coach who had connections at the race track. However, taking their inspiration from the U.S.-based CANTER organizations, two Winnipeg horsewomen have begun to volunteer their time and efforts to help Thoroughbreds find a second lease on life.

**April Keedian** and **Emily Johnson** have created and service the website [www.asdhorsesforsale.weebly.com](http://www.asdhorsesforsale.weebly.com) to help buyers find horses and help Thoroughbreds find new homes. Both Keedian and Johnson own and show horses that have come off the track. People often asked them how they were able to acquire these horses and how someone not "in the know" would know what was available and who to call. They realized they could do something to fill that gap.

The service is completely free to both the buyer and the seller. Neither Keedian nor Johnson act as agents, they are just acting as a liaison. Sunday mornings in the fall you can find them at Assiniboia Downs, talking to trainers, taking pictures of available horses and taking notes on the horses. All of the information is provided by the trainers or owners, and if someone is interested in a horse for sale, they contact the trainer directly. Any contract is made with the trainer or owner.

This was their first year of providing the service and in spite of getting a late start, it has proven to be a big success. Thirty-eight horses were listed and many found new homes by virtue of the website. The site saw over 400 hits some days and reached buyers from across Canada and the U.S. It is hoped that this is just the beginning and that even more trainers will take advantage of the free service to list horses for sale next year.

The website and the service has the full blessing of Assiniboia Downs and the local chapter of the Canadian Thoroughbred Horse Society (CTHS). Assiniboia Downs, owners and trainers were very pleased with the results and that there is now a way for trainers and buyers to connect with the shared goal of re-homing these deserving athletes.

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# Dressage Winnipeg 2010 Award Winners

## PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

### **Jr. Training Level Champion**

*Hannah Goddard and Aces High*

### **AA Training Level Champion**

*Merelyn Hunkin & Costa Rica*

### **Open Training Level Champion**

*Gaetane Manaignre & Apollo S.N*

### **Jr. First Level Champion**

*Alicia Enns & Liebe*

### **AA First Level Champion**

*Cheryl Heming & Matryx*

### **Open First Level Freestyle Champion**

*Alicia Enns & Liebe*

### **Open Second Level Champion**

*Stephanie Ruud & Jerrycho*

### **Open Third Level Champion**

*Melissa Bosma & Simba*

### **Open FEI Advanced Champion**

*Melissa Bosma & Seigneur*

### **Child Dressage Seat Equitation**

*Kaitie Mann & Mr. Big*

### **Junior Dressage Seat Equitation**

*Alicia Enns & Liebe*

### **AA Dressage Seat Equitation**

*Kayla Kuebler & Mary Poppins*

## DW HIGH POINT AWARDS:

**Walk-trot:** *Alexa Clayton & Justus*

**Training Level:** *Gaetane Manaignre & Apollo S.N.*

**First Level:** *Cheryl Heming & Matryx*

**Second Level:** *Stephanie Ruud & Jerrycho*

**Third Level:** *Gaetane Manaignre & Caylix*

**FEI Advanced:** *Melissa Bosma & Seigneur*

## THE GILLIAN SEVIER HIGH POINT AWARD:

*Gaetane Manaignre & Apollo S.N*

## THE CAPT. JOHN DE KENYERES JUNIOR HIGH POINT AWARD:

*Hannah Goddard and Aces High*

## RISING STAR AWARD (DONATED BY THE ADEY FAMILY)

*Lindsay Feller & Unbelievable*

## GOLD DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION AWARD:

*Emma Tarvis & Lexus*

## BRONZE DRESSAGE SEAT EQUITATION AWARD:

*Kyra Schamber & Theo- God's Gift*

## AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE:

### **Training Level Bronze Medal recipients:**

*Jeneen Deschamps and Stanley*

*Mackenzie Ryall and Chase*

*Katie Mann and Mr. Big*

*Hannah Goddard and Aces High*

*Tiffaney Pass and General*

*Lindsay Feller and Unbelievable*

*Christine Stevens and Braveheart*

### **Training Level Silver Medal recipients:**

*Jade Warkentin and Genesis*

### **Training Level Gold Medal recipients:**

*Merelyn Hunkin and Costa Rica*

*Gaetane Manaignre and Apollo SN*

*Karen Root and Solo Command*

### **First Level Silver Medal recipients:**

*Cheryl Heming and Matryx*

### **First Level Bronze Medal recipients:**

*Ashley Fudge and Riviera*

*Kayla Kuebler and Mary Poppins*

### **Third Level Gold Medal recipients:**

*Gaetane Manaignre and Caylix*

### **Spirit of Dressage Award:**

*Sandra Warawa*

### **Capt De Kenyeres scholarship winners:**

*Kyra Schamber and Alicia Enns (250.00 each) and*

*Emma Tarvis and Alexa Clayton (500.00 each)*

# The Role of the Vice Chair for Dressage Winnipeg

My name is Heather Thomas and I am starting my second year as vice chairperson for Dressage Winnipeg. The position is a two year term with the option of continuing on for a maximum of three consecutive terms in the same capacity.

The role of the vice chair is to support the chairperson and support the other board members as required. My specific job is focused at the end of the Dressage Winnipeg year when I organize the annual general meeting held in November and call for nominations to fill any board vacancies resulting from the completion of terms of existing board members. I am also in charge of the annual awards banquet celebration that happens in October. This year it will be on October 22nd so mark your calendars now. I am the person who will receive and compile your scores mailed in for the Awards of Excellence. I am responsible for ensuring that all of the annual awards are accounted for and engraved for the banquet presentation. The fall is a very busy time for the vice chair.

In the realm of supporting the DW board I have been contacting some of last year's DW sponsors as we try to confirm who wants to continue their relationship with our organization.

It is a pleasure to work together with a group of people committed to the ongoing success of our organization and to strive for the high caliber of shows that we have all come to expect and appreciate. Being on the board does take time but it is also very rewarding and brings a new dimension to your relationship with all things dressage in Manitoba. The next time you receive an email from me asking for nominations, take the plunge! You won't be sorry.

## DID YOU KNOW?!

February 2, 2011 — Equine Canada has named **Jan Stephens** as the *2010 Volunteer of the Year!*

# Thanks DW!

The Manitoba Horse Council Marketing Committee proudly displayed and sold much of the remaining used tack, and effectively raised \$475 to add to the total raised throughout the season.

We would like to take this opportunity to applaud Dressage Winnipeg in assisting the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation in their fundraising efforts, which undoubtedly assist all of us in this province, as well, raising awareness of all new dressage riders who may not have known Kendra, and how the love of horses was such a meaningful and successful part of her life.

Thank-you, Dressage Winnipeg, for giving Manitoba Horse Council this opportunity to assist you in this worthy endeavour.

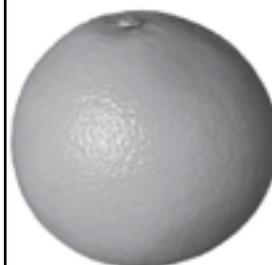
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	Fax:		
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Barn Name:	Email:		
Barn Phone:			

MEMBERSHIPS	Before Feb. 26, 2011	After Feb. 26, 2011
Associate (non-voting, non-competitive horse & rider)	\$20	\$20
Senior (18 years old as of Jan. 1, 2011)	\$25	\$35
Junior	\$15	\$25
Family	\$40	\$60

### Volunteer Commitment (Junior, Senior, and Family Members)

I will gladly volunteer for 8 hours. Please include a post dated cheque (dated October 1, 2011) for \$140 to secure your commitment. The cheque will be shredded once you have completed your volunteer hours. If the volunteer hours are not completed by the end of the year your cheque will be cashed. **NOTE:** All family members must also volunteer 16 hours total or pay out \$280.

Pay \$140 now (cheques dated May 1, 2011) if you are unable to volunteer.

Make Cheques payable to **Dressage Winnipeg** and send them with your completed membership application to:

Alexa Clayton

204-261-0297

20 Aintree Crescent

[alexa@dressagewinnipeg.com](mailto:alexa@dressagewinnipeg.com)

Winnipeg, MB

R3T 5T8

**Membership Cards** will be issued only upon receipt of **Volunteer Commitment** (post-dated cheque and volunteer form) or a **Payout Cheque** (dated May 1, 2011).

### Membership Details:

#### General Members:

- May be Junior, Senior, or Family members.
- Horse & Rider are eligible to compete at Equine Canada Bronze and Gold shows hosted by Dressage Winnipeg.
- Senior members or parents of Junior members may stand for election to the Dressage Winnipeg Board of Directors. Senior members may vote at the Dressage Winnipeg Annual General Meeting.

#### General & Associate Members:

- Reduced member rates at Dressage Winnipeg clinics, schooling shows, and workshops.
- Receive newsletters and bulletins.

**Welcome to Dressage Winnipeg!**

## 2011 Volunteer Request Form

Volunteers make our shows possible!

When you join Dressage Winnipeg, you are required to volunteer for at least 8 hours at shows or other events. There are many different positions available for various ages and skill levels. On the chart below, please check off the positions that best suit you. Your 8 hours can be done all at once or in two 4 hour periods. If you can't personally commit to fulfill your volunteer hours, you can have a friend or family member do it for you.

This form must be accompanied by a \$140 cheque (dated Oct. 1, 2011), which will be destroyed once your 8 hours of volunteering are completed. Detailed descriptions of each position are explained in the "volunteers" section of our website, please see [www.dressagewinnipeg.com](http://www.dressagewinnipeg.com).

Name:	Cell Phone:
Home Phone:	Email:

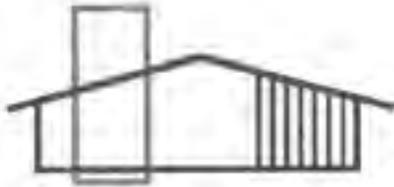
Volunteer Positions	May 7-8	June 25-26	*Aug 20-21	Sept 10-11
Announcer				
Show Office Assistant				
Steward Assistant				
Gate Keeper				
Scribe				
Whipper-In				
Runner				
Test Scorers				
Bingo				

\*The amount of volunteers needed for this show is subject to change. If selected, you may or may not be called upon.

I cannot commit to 8 volunteer hours, please cash my \$140 cheque (dated May 1, 2011).

Thank-you, with your help we are looking forward to a great year of Dressage. If you have any questions please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Sheryl Feller at [sheryl@dressagewinnipeg.com](mailto:sheryl@dressagewinnipeg.com).





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# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dressage Development Camp

**Dressage Winnipeg is very pleased to announce that the 3rd Annual Dressage Development Camp will be held July 4 - 7th at PineRidge Equine Park in Oakbank, MB.**

Back by popular demand will be **John McPherson, Roz Moskovits and Joanna Crilly**  
(three Camp favourites from 2009 & 2010!)

This all inclusive event has been reformatted to include two shorter semi-private lessons per day with mini clinic demonstrations taking place after supper (including a Painted Horse AND Demystifying Lateral Work demo!)

Whether you're just beginning or are a seasoned competitor, there is something for everyone (and a variety of discounts and participation levels available to make Camp fit perfectly into your budget!)

Come see what a beautiful (and fun!) sport dressage can be!  
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**Registration package available at [www.dressagewinnipeg.com](http://www.dressagewinnipeg.com)**

**Email: [megan@dressagewinnipeg.com](mailto:megan@dressagewinnipeg.com) for more information**



# *In Memory*

## ***Jacqueline (Jacqui) Oldham***

December 21, 2010 — It is with deep regret that Equine Canada (EC) acknowledges the passing of long-time member, coach, official, clinician and mentor, **Jacqueline (Jacqui) Oldham**, 72, of Langley, BC, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Jacqui was born in Bellevue, AB in 1938 and started riding as a young girl in Edmonton. By the age of 14, Jacqui directed her equestrian interest to dressage leading into a lifelong dedication to the sport. Jacqueline continued on to accrue over 60 years of experience in the horse industry and had trained and competed in dressage up to the Grand Prix level. As an EC Level 2 Dressage Coach, Jacqueline shared her talent and knowledge with countless students from Training to Grand Prix levels.

“Jacqui has helped and mentored literally hundreds of people over the years and I feel very fortunate to have been one of her close friends and students,” stated Grand Prix rider Wendy Christoff.

A dressage judge since 1976, Jacqui received her Equine Canada Senior Dressage Judge status in 1993 and her United States Equestrian Federation Senior status in 1994. Jacqui had the enviable reputation of judging with authority, fairness and compassion, and this afforded her the opportunity to judge competitions in North America, Australia and Barbados.

Jacqui was one of the founding members of CADORA in British Columbia where she helped organizers develop the “Best Ever” program which helped identify and support talented horses and riders.

Jacqui held the position of president of the Horse Council of British Columbia (HCBC) from 1997 to 1998, and continued to sit in on hearings and disciplinary committees with HCBC after the completion of her term. In 2003, Jacqui was named the HCBC’s Official of the Year, and in 2009 HCBC bestowed Jacqui with their Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jacqui proudly ran the very successful “Educate Your Eye” clinic for approved judges across Canada. Through this program, Jacqui truly excelled in sharing her lifetime of experience and love of dressage with aspiring judges.

She mentored numerous judges over the years and touched thousands of others who will continue to benefit from her great work.

Jacqui played a large role in the advancement of Dressage Canada (DC) programs that focused on the development of horses and riders. DC recognized her passion and talent and had called upon her on two occasions to be an official facilitator and evaluator.

Jacqueline leaves behind her husband Bill and two children, Shannon and Haley, as well as two grandchildren Lauralee and Justin.

At her family’s request, memorial donations in lieu of flowers may to the BC Cancer Foundation at 600 – 686 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V5Z 1G1, or to the equivalent agency in your local area.

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## ***Bunty Forstythe***

Bunty was born in Argentina but raised in England. She came to Winnipeg in 1943 as a very young bride to a native Winnipegger named Ken Forstythe. They lived on Christie Road on Willow Grange Farm which was set up like an English Estate. The house and 6 stall barn had a gorgeous view of the river.

Bunty developed an interest in riding in Argentina and maintained that passion throughout her life. While in Manitoba, she was involved with the Springfield Hunt, the Winnipeg Horseman’s Club and the breeding and racing of Thoroughbreds. She was also a dear friend to Captain De Keneyeres. Along with Peggie Sellers, Bunty was one of the first people to ride Dressage in Winnipeg. She could be seen at all manner of equestrian competition on her aptly named Black Nitro.

Other interests included bridge (co-founder of the Fort Garry Bridge Club, badminton and animal welfare activities. She herself always had a number of labrador dogs and numerous cats.

In 1986, Bunty and Ken retired to south Langley, BC, which they totally enjoyed. Even in the summer of 2010, at the age of 90 - Bunty was enjoying her life long sport of riding - on her home bred thoroughbred Chester, the last colt which was out of her champion race horse - Golden Willow.

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# Showing Without A “Posse”

*by Myriam Dyck*

Some riders go to shows with their whole barn and coach as a group, thereby ensuring a constant division of labour and hands on deck. Some riders have to twist arms trying to get husbands, teenagers, cousins and virtual strangers to abandon their weekend plans and come out for a 3 day show with you to stand around watching horses trot in circles over and over, get rained or snowed on, and otherwise spend the weekend in servitude.

If that fails...you show SOLO. It can be done - if you're organized. You are responsible for everything from packing, trailer loading, making sure your show clothes are clean, bringing snacks and drinks, to remembering to fill up the gas tank and getting your horse loaded alone.

I have shown solo several times in the past few years, including 2 horses at a time once (man was I tired.. I felt like an ant walking back and forth carrying things all weekend!).

## **TIPS FOR SHOWING ALONE**

1. Reduce carrying and back and forth walking... pack efficiently into bins or bring a dolly, park by the door while you unload everything, then park the vehicle so you don't have to go back to it other than to drive home at the end of the day. Rent or share a tack stall, so all your hay and feed and tack can be as close to the horse as possible. Bring enough small square bales in on the initial unload to last the weekend. Try to get a stall close to the water tap!
2. Wear layers - breeches with nylon windpants over them, show shirt with a sweatshirt or long sleeved T-shirt over it. Wear runners or barn boots until you're ready to get on almost. I groom, tack up in the stall, THEN go to tack stall and remove the outer layers, add riding boots, add jacket, helmet, show gloves etc, followed by leading horse out and mounting with as little of touching the horse as possible after that. Then after riding, unbridle carefully so you don't get green slime all over your white breeches and show shirt, go add the outer protective layer back on and change to shoes - THEN go and finish untacking, grooming, cooling out etc. Whatever you do don't feed or water without the outer layer!
3. If you have a long wait between tests, then go change/untack/put horse back in stall while you chill, eat, get your tests etc. If you have a short break, don't bother trying to get your hands on your test sheet - by the time they score it and have it ready to hand out you might not get it in time anyway, so don't stress over it and just pay attention to your horse - walk, stand in the shade, and tune up for the next test without having to go all the way to the show office or wherever tests are handed out.
4. Wear a watch!! Highlight your tests on your program and memorize when your tests are and in what order for that day (EACH day, don't mix up days by trying to memorize all the days ahead of time). If you're memorizing tests, have them all memorized a week ahead of time by whatever means works for you. Keeping track of time so you're tacked up and warming up at the right time and at the right place for your test on time is actually the stressful “hard” part for me. If the show has a whipper-in keeping people on deck and on track then that helps, but the competitor is still the one ultimately responsible.
5. Take time to rest and eat and stay hydrated. Your horse needs time to power-nap in his stall in the daytime sometimes, and will do so only if you leave him alone instead of fussing over him all the time or always walking him around.
6. Practice loading and unloading alone beforehand so it's solid by the time you add the extra excitement (and your nerves), bustle of the grounds and/or scary stuff in the environment. When you're tired and really want to go home at the end is of course when they will be most likely to not load easily!

And remember, smile, be helpful and make new friends! Those you share a tack stall with or others showing alone can become your “posse” if you all help each other and encourage each other over the course of a show. Offer to call tests if you are available, and the offer will often be reciprocated.

***Good luck!***

# Captain De Kenyeres Scholarship Program: 16-21 Category Winning Essays

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO MY RIDING DIFFICULTIES

*By Alexa Clayton*

*Over the years people have often tried relating Dressage to ballet, dance, and even figure skating on horseback. Unfortunately these people never tell you that it will take years of hard work and dedication to even come close to resembling a dressage rider. But even after all that, there's still the horse.*

*For myself it's a rather leggy three year old Hanoverian Thoroughbred eager with lots to learn, who goes by the name of Joey. I happen to have the opportunity to train him to be as graceful and beautiful as a ballet dancer and as rhythmic as the tango. To achieve this there are some difficulties I must overcome as a rider as well as difficulties we face as a pair.*

*Any ex-smoker would tell you to never start because quitting a bad habit is the hardest thing you'll ever have to do. Unfortunately I have picked up a couple of my own bad habits. Habits like the classic "puppy paws", looking down instead of where I want to go, leaning to the left, rounding of the shoulders, etc. When training a young horse in any discipline, the first goal should be no rider errors. Rider errors mean horse errors. It's one thing to retrain your own brain not to fall back on old habits but trying to retrain a horse not to go back to bad habits is not fun at all. As Susanne Miesner states, "There are a lot of self-help books for managers, investors, housewives, tall people and thin people. Some are good, some are less good but all ask of the reader some self analysis and knowledge of their limitations. And they all recommend not to blame your situation but to try to adapt and change. Unfortunately this ability is rare among riders. Some may claim to be willing to change but most are not really prepared to dig down deep to discover the root of their mistakes. Whilst in swimming, running and skiing it is obvious who is winning or losing it is different in riding. Equestrians can always blame the horse." (Training the Young Horse with Susanne Miesner, The Horse Magazine). Susanne helps sum it all up very well in her article. If you are willing to admit your own mistakes as a rider it will help further your career as well as that of your young horse. I am willing to adapt and change to work better together with Joey. It has not been an easy road so far but as the professionals say, "Practice Makes Perfect!"*

*That last couple weeks have been a huge turning point for Joey and I in our training. Through an unforeseeable opportunity members of our barn were granted with an extra dressage clinic with our clinician Elaine Potter of Toronto, Ontario. Elaine, rather than just telling me what I need to be doing with Joey, decided to show me. She hopped on my big boy and took him for a test drive. Throughout the clinic she was able to tell me specifically what I wasn't doing and showed me how to fix it. The number one most important thing I learned how to do was stay connected. Elaine explained that all I needed to do with my baby was show him that I am always there for him. By keeping my legs pushing him up into my now very steady contact I can feel the difference from our once rushy and sometimes jerky trot, to our flowing supple rounded trot. The second most important thing I learned was to stay connected through every transition. There is never a time where a rider should be throwing their contact away. As Elaine said, "Horses seek reassurance that you will always be there for them. As soon as you lose that contact you lose everything you just worked for. You need to stay more consistent and steady with your hands while using your legs to push him up into the contact. You need to keep this feel through ALL your transitions and you'll be able to see and feel the difference." (Elaine Potter, West Wind Dressage Clinic August 14 & 15). Can I ever see and feel the difference! Since that clinic I have noticed a huge difference in Joey's attitude toward his training as well as it has allowed me to work on my posture. I can't look like the hunchback of Notre Dame when I have this gorgeous willing horse beneath me. "There are several upper body problems that come from tension or bad posture. The head needs to be relaxed and straight. Tension in the head and neck is a major problem. If the neck strains forwards it will unbalance the entire body." After reading this article I found that this is one of my classic problems. I often find myself looking down which is tilting my whole head toward the ground, unbalancing us both. "To release some of the tension, drop your head to the chest and then look up. Tip your head to the left, then to the right. Drop your head to the chest and then look ahead... Now your head should be aligned, by keeping it straight but relaxed." (How to Improve Your Classical Seat in Horse Riding, Annette Holdsworth). By*

*practicing keeping my head, neck, and shoulders more relaxed and straight, I will be able to help balance Joey better.*

*Joey and I still have a long way to go but I couldn't be happier with him. If I were to win this scholarship I would put the money toward more clinics because having a different voice of opinion can be the difference between repetition and an epiphany.*

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Potter, E. August 14-15, 2010. Westwind Dressage Clinic.

VideoJug. 2007. How to Improve Your Classical Seat in Horse Riding, Annette Holdsworth, retrieved from <http://www.videojug.com/film/how-to-improve-your-classical-seat-in-horse-riding> on August 16, 2010.

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## MY RIDING DIFFICULTIES

By Emma Tarvis

*For the last two years I have had the privilege and good fortune to ride an Andalusian/Thoroughbred mare named Lexus. Lexus is 13 years old and has been trained in dressage by a very capable trainer. Lexus is a willing and talented mare and I, with the help of my coach and the encouragement of her owner, have been working toward competing at level 2. Lexus has conformation that is typical of her breed: powerful shoulders and a high crested neck. Her stride can be somewhat short and getting her to fully engage her hindquarters can be difficult. She sometimes resists flexing and can become rather stiff while working. We have, therefore, been working on achieving a rounder frame and trying to teach Lexus to better flex and become more supple through her jaw and neck. As a rider, I have been trying to improve my seat and leg position in order to help her become more relaxed and fluid.*

*I have learned that the best way to supple a horse is to ride circles (20m, 10m and half circles) and serpentines. I regularly use these exercises to teach Lexus to bend which, in turn, enables her to flex. Debby Sly, in her book "How to Ride", stresses the importance of these exercises in achieving many important skills. By bending her around my inside leg and using my outside contact to keep her straight, Lexus flexes toward the inside. I*

*try to maintain steady contact with my outside rein in order to help support her and to keep her from overbending. I try to ensure that my outside hand is steady yet sympathetic. My inside hand is soft and open encouraging her to bend towards the inside. I try to keep my inside leg on the girth, applying pressure in order to push her out while, at the same time, keeping my outside leg positioned approximately a hands width behind the girth in order to prevent her from bulging outward. By practising serpentines, making her bend in one direction and then changing to the other, I am requiring Lexus to pay attention to the aids that I am giving her. Once Lexus starts to bend she also becomes lighter through her jaw, poll and back creating a rounder topline. As well, her hindquarters become more engaged resulting in greater impulsion.*

*In order to help Lexus achieve topline suppleness and flexion I, as her rider, need to improve my seat and leg position. I try to sit on my two seat bones and open my hips, allowing me to have a deeper seat. When beginner riders first learn to sit the trot they usually drop their stirrups in order to develop the feel of the trot and deepen their seat. This exercise is an excellent one even for more experienced riders. Heather Moffett, in her book "Enlightened Equitation", suggests that the rider should absorb the beat of the horse's gait. For example, at the sitting trot the rider's goal should be to flex their back on the upward beat and straighten their back on the downward stride. I have also learned that a deep seat is facilitated by wrapping my legs around Lexus' barrel allowing me to have fuller contact in the saddle. I try to apply weight to the balls of my feet and turn my toes towards Lexus' centre so that I am better able to support her in her flexion. A deep seat and legs positioned so that they are wrapped around her barrel allow me to drive her forward as we work towards greater flexion.*

*I have been working on improving the flexion and suppleness in Lexus' frame and my own riding position for some time and have come to realize that these skills will always require perseverance and practise. On the days when things go well the benefits of achieving these skills are clear in that Lexus feels more fluid and balanced and I feel more connected with her.*

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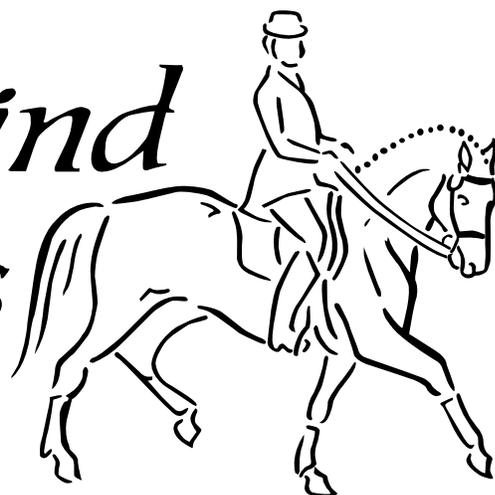
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to all competitors



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# World Equestrian Games

By *Bonny Bonnello (edited by Jacquie Crone)*

The day I rode (WEG - Grand Prix test, September 27, 2010) was amazing. It was the day I had waited for and worked for all these months. I had a wonderful warm up, where I felt that Pikkers (Pikardi) was on and so was I.

The whistle blew and it was my turn. I came down centre line focused and "in the moment", a feeling I love so much. To make a long story short it was the best feeling I have had from Pikardi. The mistakes were totally mine as I tried a little too hard. These mistakes, unfortunately were what kept me from competing the next day. I will go over this for probably years to come. It will be "if I only", as I know that it was one of our best tests ever. I am so proud of my horse, and of the accomplishments I have made this past year, from getting my tempi changes confirmed and having a brilliant horse in one year, to my final solo drive from Lexington to Winnipeg (two days) to meet my husband and spend a quiet time at the family cottage at Victoria Beach.

Pikardi is still back in Lexington with Kathy Priest ([www.woodspringfarm.com](http://www.woodspringfarm.com)) where he will be sold. I am hoping that someone will fall in love with him as I did and continue training and competing, as he has lots to offer and has not reached his full potential. This has been an extraordinary year and I want to say how grateful I am for everything that people have done for me. I have had such incredible support from my family and friends and those that believed in me, also from my co-owner Bruce and Jean Bell. I will think of this last 12 months as a very special time in my life and an accomplishment that I am proud of. It is great to be home with my family, friends and students who have waited patiently for my return.

The Canadian Team placed seventh which I think is the best placing in a world competition (not Olympics) I am also so proud of our Team and our reserves which worked so hard as well.

## Grand Prix Canadian results

Ashley Holzer - Pop Art - Grand Prix 70.383% (12th)  
Belinda Trussell - Anton - Grand Prix 69.021% (21st)  
Victoria Winter - Proton - Grand Prix 66.681% (36th)  
Bonny Bonnello - Pikardi - Grand Prix 65.447% (47th)

## Grand Prix Special

Ashley Holzer - Pop Art  
Grand Prix Special: 71.708% (11th)

Belinda Trussell - Anton  
Grand Prix Special 67.208% (25th)

Gold - Edward Gal - Totilas - 85.708%  
Silver - Laura Bechtolsheimer - Mistral Hojris - 81.708%  
Bronze - Steffen Peters - Ravel - 78.542%

## Grand Prix Freestyle

Gold - Edward Gal - Totilas - 91.800%  
Silver - Laura Bechtolsheimer - Mistral Hojris - 85.350%  
Bronze - Steffen Peters - Ravel - 84.900%  
Ashley Holzer - Pop Art - 76.550% (8th)

## Team Results

Gold: Netherlands | Silver: Great Britain | Bronze:  
Germany | Canada: 7th

***Bonnie will be giving a number of clinics at Deer Field Farms in Headingley in 2011. Please contact Cheryl Heming or Heather Thomas for information or to be added to the waiting list.***

*continued on page 29*

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Through the Dressage Winnipeg website ([www.dressagewinnipeg.com](http://www.dressagewinnipeg.com)) all members can access links to the variety of sponsors who support this Club.

The full range of services both provided through our sponsors and made use of by our competitors is reflected in the fact that in 2010 there were 30 different businesses who chose to be sponsors of Dressage Winnipeg.

The size of the current membership of Dressage Winnipeg represents the second largest among the member Clubs of Manitoba Horse Council.

Should any members of Dressage Winnipeg choose to promote Dressage Winnipeg to potential sponsors it is easy to do.

All the sponsor forms and specifics are contained in the Dressage Winnipeg newsletters as well as the Dressage Winnipeg website.

The website includes the details about choices of size of advertising per level of sponsorship.

The best way to thank Dressage Winnipeg sponsors is to make use of the services they provide and to tell your friends about what they have to offer.

Thanks to the sponsors of Dressage Winnipeg the cost of membership and entry fees and prizes are kept reasonable.



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# Finding Love and Laughter

EQUINE ASSISTED PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT ROYCAN'S COUNTRY HAVEN IN PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE



In a world whose pace seems way too fast for most of us, compassion, patience, letting go, healing, loving and laughing are often regarded as signposts to emotional health and wellness.

Now, through a unique collaboration between a life-long horse professional, an experienced clinical therapist, physiotherapist, program facilitators and handlers, both youth and adults are being aided on their personal journeys to increased emotional health and wellness.

At the core of their work, "ROYCAN" use dynamic and powerful living beings, namely horses, as their assistants. Their group of 12 horses are specially selected 'school master' horses who work as part of the team. Like their human partners, horses are social animals who bring to the table their own distinct personalities, habits and ways of interacting with us humans. More so than us however, horses are especially attuned to reading the non-verbal cues of humans including our body language and emotional tone. Candice Kontzie, owner, states that it is this special ability, honed as a survival skill over hundreds of thousands of years, that has led to the often repeated statement that "horses know what's in our heart even before we do."

Kontzie finds that horses are able to readily mirror the 'in the moment' feelings of their clients and also assist clients to become aware of deeper emotions or find the courage to face unresolved personal issues. Whether clients come with no experience or have been around horses all their lives makes no difference - the horses seem to know what they are feeling and instinctively respond positively to them. Through a graduated exposure to the horses using ground-based individual and group activities, both youth and adults always

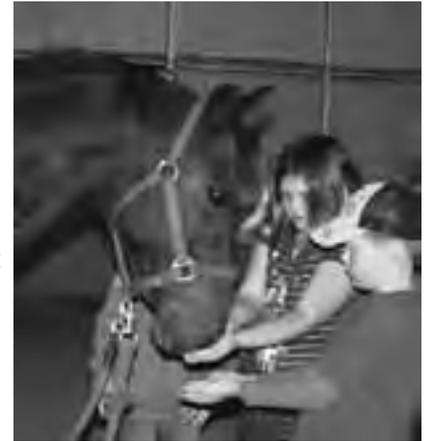
report coming away with increased feelings of personal empowerment and well being.

The Equine-Assisted Personal Development Program is based out of Roycan's Country Haven located near Portage la Prairie.

The facility provides sessions for various agencies and corporations, cancer patients and their families, health care workers, RCMP, military and many more. Their client base comes from over 12 hour radius. Each session is custom designed for the needs of the client. With the professional staff available areas of both mental and physical help can be scheduled as part of the sessions. Therapeutic riding is part of their "Four Legged Freedom" Program and covered under personal insurance through the physiotherapist.

In closing, "ROYCAN" is helping to create emotional breathing space for their clients where the world is temporarily kept at bay. Their hope is that the safe haven they are able to offer with the help of their equine assistants will allow their clients to develop greater resiliency and once again find the gentleness, compassion, patience, healing, loving and laughing that we all search for in our lives.

For more information, please contact **Candice Kontzie** (204-239-4854), or visit [www.roycan.ca](http://www.roycan.ca)



# Herd Bound

*Courtesy of Megan Nunn*

Recently I was asked to model (along with my beloved Steed Guinness) for Herd Products, as they prepare to launch a new line of horse trailers. The photo shoot was scheduled to take place on November 18th at Superior Equestrian Centre in Oakbank. For those of you who don't live in Mani-snow-ba, you may not appreciate that relying on good weather can be dicey at the best of times. In fact, a true Manitoban knows we don't really have summer here - just three or four months of bad tobogganing!

I arrived at the barn at 9:00 a.m., decked out from head to toe in my winter gear. It was approximately -20 with the wind chill and flurries were expected within the hour so we would have to move fast if we wanted to get some useable shots (those being the ones where I'm not channelling my inner Rudolph!)

Initially Guinness didn't seem sure losing valuable playtime with his buddies was worth it, but before I could crinkle the plastic on the bag of carrots, my boy appeared (and practically dragged me to the barn!) I don't call him "Guinny Pig" for nothing folks...that horse would work the camera himself for a carrot!

With time being limited before the shoot, I quickly braided and groomed Guinness before getting myself cleaned up and ready for the shoot. I had already done my hair and makeup at home (and said a little prayer for it to last out in the elements) so essentially I just needed to change. As I mentioned earlier, this was a "fall" shoot, so on went the lightweight breeches, tall leather boots, a turtleneck and a light (emphasis on light) jacket. I decided to refresh the hot packs in my boots (and put a pair in my mitts for good measure) before heading outside.

The creative for the photo shoot was loosely based around unloading horses in the fall, with the inference that we could be going to or from a horse show. Our first location was on the lane where we did some mock loading shots. Guinness was a good sport, illustrating just how far a horse of his stature (17.1hh and 1300lbs+) can reach his neck into the trailer without actually setting foot inside! Next we moved out to a meadow where we did some casual shots in front of the trailer grazing. Guinness and I got to pose with some deluxe 2011 SUV's brought in from local dealerships for the shoot. We stayed in the meadow for just over an hour while they



*Megan Nunn & Guinness*

setup shots and rotated vehicles. Although it was cold, Guinness was a trooper and a real natural in front of the camera. I on the other hand was entering rigor mortis and was given direction to look more relaxed (also known as less stiff!) For the record, I took my critique gracefully (a real model never complains, right Tyra?)

Guinny and I had a short break so they could get some static shots before we setup at our next location. Guinness had a few minutes to eat in the stall while I threw on my winter clothes and cranked the heat in my car. I have never been flexible (or coordinated...who am I kidding here?) but cold is a great motivator. I was somehow tenuously balanced on the seat with arms and legs in the air, rotating appendages with deadly precision from one vent to another for maximum heat absorption.

Once I was moderately defrosted, we moved to our third and final location in front of the barn, where we did a series of shots leading past the trailer. The mirrored finish of the trailer suddenly caught Guinness's attention and the photographer ended the day with some great shots that weren't part of the original creative. Thank goodness I own a horse that loves his reflection!

All jokes aside, the shoot went really well and Guinness was a hit with the crew. They all couldn't get over what a gentle giant he is (and I couldn't help but agree - how I love him!) For now our budding career as professional models is on ice (literally) as I wait patiently await our big debut online. You too can watch for us at [www.safetrailr.com](http://www.safetrailr.com)

# World Equestrian

## Games *(continued from page 25)*

### ASHLEY HOLZER PLACES EIGHTH AT 2010 WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES

Ashley Holzer finished in eighth place individually in the Freestyle competition 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) held in Lexington, KY.

Holzer was one of 15 athletes from the original starting field of 66 to qualify for the Friday night competition at the Main Stadium. Her freestyle was designed by fellow Canadian Karen Robinson of Applause Dressage, and included music from the Disney Epcot Center Fireworks display and from the motion picture "National Treasure." Holzer performed a powerful and energetic test with Pop Art, riding him perfectly in time with the music. The panel of five international judges rewarded Holzer's performance with a score of 76.550 per cent.

"I am thrilled. It was a huge crowd and I don't think we have ever performed in front of a crowd that large," says Holzer, who won a Team Bronze Medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. "We took him in the stadium last night and we had a plan for tonight. I have a great team behind me and I could not have done it with out them. My horse showed the fact that he had so many people work to make this ride the best ever he has ever done in a freestyle."

"It is so great that it comes together a time like this — in front of my friends, family and supporters, many of whom have come all the way from Canada and New York to support me," adds Holzer. "I have a really great horse."

Pop Art, Holzer's 2008 Olympic mount, is a 13-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding owned by her mother, Moreen Nicoll, and her husband, Rusty Holzer.

"Ashley and Pop Art were simply fantastic tonight and earned every bit of their eighth place in the world. A



**Ashley Holzer & Pop Art**

magnificent accomplishment that all Canadians can be proud of," says Robert Dover, the Dressage Canada technical coach/advisor.

When the Freestyle Medals were awarded, it was Edward Gal of the Netherlands who won Gold with Moorlands Totilas with the phenomenal score of 91.800 per cent. Great Britain's Laura Bechtolsheimer won silver with a score of 85.350 per cent with Mistral Hojris, and Steffen Peters of the United States and Ravel were awarded the bronze medal with a score of 84.850%.

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# Good News! Your horse made a New Year's resolution too!

## HERE ARE THE PROMISES:

I will *NOI* walk faster on the way home than I did on the way out.

I promise *NOI* to swish my tail while my human is cleaning my back feet.

I promise *also NOI* to choose that particular time to answer nature's call.

I will *NOI* bite my furrier's butt just because it is there.

I will *NOI* wipe green slime down the back of my human's white shirt.

I will *NOI* blow my nose on my human.

I will *NOI* lay totally flat out in my stall with my eyes glazed over and my legs straight out and pretend I can't hear my human frantically screaming "Are you asleep?"

I will promise *NEVER* to dump the wheelbarrow of manure over while a human is mucking my stall.

I will *NOI* grab my lead rope in my mouth and attempt to lead myself.

I will *NOI* have an attitude problem.  
I won't, I won't, I won't!

I will *NOI* pull my new shoes off the very next day just to prove that I can.

I am neither a beaver nor a carpenter. I promise I won't eat or remodel the barn or the new fences.

I *WILL* forgive my human for the very bad haircut, even though I look like a freak.

I will *NOI* jump in the air and turn 180 degrees every time I see a bicycle.

I will understand that bicycles are *NOI* carnivorous.

I will *NOI* shy at familiar objects just for fun.

I will *NOI* bite the butt of the horse in front of me during the trail ride just to say "Hi".

I *WILL* put my ears forward and cooperate when it comes to photos.

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