



‘THE CANADIAN’ 40th ANNIVERSARY EVENT



by Dianne Little

From 1945, Tennessee Walking Horses were registered in the Canadian General Stud and Herd Book with Chief Justice Allen as the first TWH registered. In 1981, a group of TWH owners applied to Agriculture Canada to form a Canadian Registry for the TWH. Many meetings and edits later, Bylaws were submitted to Agriculture Canada. In 1982, the Bylaws (Constitution) were approved for the Canadian Walking Horse Association. Chief Justice Allen and 125 other purebred TWH recorded in the Canadian General Stud and Herd Book were transferred to the new TWH Registry.

40 years later, a group of TWH horses and other gaited horses and owners spent three days (August 5, 6, and 7, 2022) in Thorsby Alberta at ‘The Canadian’ 40th Anniversary Event.

‘The Canadian’ was an Event, not a show. An Event is a happening, a thing of importance - a competition, a meeting, an encounter, a journey, a tournament. ‘The Canadian’ 40th Anniversary Event comprised all of these - education, testing, competition, entertainment, and camaraderie. It was an event that remained true to the Mission, Values and Vision of the Canadian Registry of the Tennessee Walking Horse.

The CRTWH Mission is not only to register horses but to preserve the historic attributes of the breed. On Saturday, TWH halter, TWH two and three gait classes, and TWH Authentic Gaits classes ensured the Event remained true to breed standards of conformation and movement. *(Photo - Ron Smith & Star, Authentic Gaits class.)*

To fulfill the Values statement, the focus on Friday and Sunday was education. An introduction to Western Dressage for gaited horses was an opportunity to ride a test and receive feedback from a Licensed Gaited Horse Judge and Licensed Gaited Horse Dressage judge. Written feedback on each element of the Dressage Test and the Obstacle Challenge are valuable guidance to further improvement.

Other gaited breeds were invited as the Vision statement is to encourage riders of all ages and any breed of horse to appreciate the TWH.

Judge Diane Sept (*center left*) is well known to many Canadian TWH owners. She lived in Canada for nine years as the trainer for Helen Williamson’s Westridge Stables. Although not a founder of CRTWH, her input was relevant to the formation. Since leaving Canada, Diane has continued to expand her knowledge of horses, giving clinics and lessons throughout North America.

Canadian TWH owners are a community of people

who love horses, enjoy learning, and spending time with other gaited horses and their owners. Creativity and endurance were abundant. Costume classes, Mismatched pairs and Go Shopping were popular and fun for participants and audience. *(Costume class photo left with Cindy Laschowski’s daughter & granddaughter, Princess Aleigh.*



Ticket, Huck Hammerstrom, Diane, Leslie Hunchuk



The Diane Sept Friday Dressage clinic was not as expected. There was a focus on the body of the rider, and influence on the movement of the horse was presented in a different and memorable manner. Most participants chose to ride their first Dressage Tests. After a potluck dessert on Friday evening, Windi Scott presented an introduction to clicker training. Equitheater performances by Diana Krah and Frenchie, Susan Seuffert and Francy Target, and Windi Scott and Ghost of Future Past (*left*) not only entertained but inspired.



Fun, entertainment, and friendship were abundant on Saturday evening. Past presidents Ron Bannister, Stu Pritchard and Fran Kerik were welcome guests. After a catered barbeque the entertainment began. Stick Horse Model and Stick Horse Performance classes were filled with laughter. Windi Scott, a TWH owner, trainer and musician was joined by Edward Pimm, a young man with a bright future as an 'up and coming' Western entertainer. He is a recent recipient of The Rising Star Award from The Alberta Men of Country Music and has been signed with Global Country Canada. What a wonderful evening!

The Obstacle Challenge classes were as unique as our horses. They proved a Challenge both in hand and under saddle. Written evaluative comments will be beneficial to horses and riders.

There were two special awards at 'The Canadian' – Three Day Phase in Hand and Three Day Phase Under Saddle. To qualify for either award, the horse must be entered in specified classes – Dressage in Hand or Under Saddle, Halter or Model or 2 gait and Obstacle Challenge either in hand or under saddle. Winner of the Three Phases Event in Hand Award was Narnia owned and exhibited by Karen Sollid. Winner of the Three Phase Event under Saddle was Cisco's Liberty General owned and exhibited by Stephen Woodall. *Photo right.* The unique ceramic trophies were designed and created by Lynnette Lukay of Stony Plain and donated by The Sawhorse Ranch.



A number of years ago, Diane Sept sponsored an award to honour one of her horses, Nugget, a happy horse with a sense of humor. The Nugget Award is only presented when Diane finds a horse she feels is worthy of the award. She was pleased to present the Nugget Award to Karlas Alanza Jewel owned by Ashley Stroud and Greg Wiebe. Congratulations to Alanza – the first Canadian recipient! (See page 1.)

'The Canadian' 40th Anniversary Event would not have been possible without sponsors and supporters. We are grateful to the Alberta Walking Horse Association, Alberta Equestrian Federation, CRTWH Stallion Auction donors, Friends of Sound Horses, the 40th Anniversary Project, Walking Horse News, as well as Kristy Coulter, Dale Derman & Windi Scott (The Sawhorse Ranch), Sue and Dave Gamble, Bill Howes, Margaret and Brent Johnson (Southpaw Creations), Diana Krah (Bee Seal), Marjorie Lacy (Uphill Farm), Anne Preugschas, Bonar Gillies, Cindy Laschowski, Lisa Parrish, Marion Taylor, Wild Rose Walkers, the Woodall Family, and others who prefer to remain anonymous.



Events don't just 'happen'.

Vision, organization, time, energy and enthusiasm lead to a successful event. Thanks to committee leader, Fran Kerik and team: Bobbie Buck, Karla Hansen, Leslie Hunchuk, (on previous page), Dianne Little, Windi Scott (top left) and Brenda Woodall, for organizing and hosting 'The Canadian' 40th Event.