

Betty Seidel ADA Lifetime Achievement Award Presented in 2021

Participation 25+ Years:

Betty Seidel has been involved in the Alberta dressage community since 1976.

FEI Achievement:

She was short listed with her mount - Optimist for the World Equestrian Games Championships in 1986. She won the Grand Prix with her mount Grande Prix16 for Western Canada in 1990 and in Holland she rode two national shows on her mount - Grande Prix 16.

Contributions to the sport of dressage:

Betty was instrumental in connecting with Jaimey and Tina Irwin and organizing Jaimey to teach clinics in our area. He is now offering a clinic series through the EAADA which benefits both local and provincial riders. As a barn owner, she brought in a variety of international clinicians to help our community see what can be accomplished with hard work, correct knowledge, and training.

Betty was part of the Team that represented Canada in the CanAm Challenge held at Rancho Santa Fe in San Diego. She also was able to coach a Young Riders team from Alberta at the NAYRC in Chicago in 1985.

Active Member of ADA or Area Group”

Betty has been chairperson of the Canadian Equestrian Federation Rules and Regulations board; the Alberta Equestrian Federation representative to Canadian Equestrian Federation; Board member for the Canadian Equestrian Federation Judge Qualifications; and Western Canadian National Championships Chairman for two years. Betty was also recognized provincially as an Alberta Dressage Association Volunteer of the Year. Betty has enthusiastically volunteered her time in a variety of capacities for the Edmonton Area Alberta Dressage Association. She has organized clinics, volunteered in our casino endeavors to assist in raising money for our club as well as dressage clubs in Alberta. As President of the EAADA Betty created a number of opportunities to show case dressage in and around the Edmonton Area.

Ambassador for Dressage:

Betty is passionate about dressage and has always believed that in order to have a vibrant dressage community, we must all participate and give back to the organization(s) that have done so much for dressage riders.





Betty believes in the importance of competing locally to showcase what can be achieved with the support of our local club (Edmonton-area EA/ADA), local trainers and locally-organized events. She was also accomplished enough to demonstrate her training by competing nationally and internationally.

She participated in a number of dressage demonstrations at a number of venues including riding in a dressage demonstration at a rodeo held at the Edmonton Coliseum.

Betty was instrumental in bringing a CDI to Edmonton - the first in western Canada.

Other Contributions:

Rather than sell her Grand Prix horse Clearly Canadian she gave him to a local Young Rider, Lindsey Stroh, to assist Lindsey in her efforts to compete at the Grand Prix level. Nationally, she also donated Clearly Canadian to Olympian Tom Dvorak to compete nationally. Internationally, Betty sold her beloved horse Optimist to England's Anni Mac Donald who was coached at the time with Carl Hester.

Today Betty assists a number of riders at a variety of levels locate their "forever horse". Her love of the sport and what good breeding can do to enhance Canada's competitive edge has turned her eye into helping a number of local breeders select breeding prospects so we can have locally developed quality breeding programs.