

Bonny Bunnello ADA Lifetime Achievement Award Presented in 2022

Participation 25+ Years:

Bonny has been involved in the Alberta dressage community for 45+ years as a rider, coach, and mentor. The Bunnello's moved from England in the mid 40's to a farm in West Edmonton. Over several years it went from a chicken farm to turkeys, to pigs and finally horses, starting with one boarder and eventually becoming a boarding stable called Donsdale Stables. Bonny started her riding career at the age of 4, and was introduced to dressage at the age of 13.

Dressage was a mystery in the early 60's. A Dressage demonstration was performed by Dr. Bode at a small horse show, that Bonny competed in as a little jumper rider. Mona, Bonny's mother, was fascinated and intrigued and was HOOKED. The Bunnello Family was instrumental in the development of Dressage in Alberta. She rode with Dr. O.B. Bode for 6 years. Her first trip to Germany was in 1974 to Herr von Neindorf's Riding School, where she spent 6 months. Bonny competed in Alberta Dressage Shows with Satchmo and Fallstaff.

FEI Achievement:

Bonny's FEI journey has been extensive both Nationally and Internationally. In 1980 she was a member of the Canadian team that competed in the alternate Olympics in Goodwood England. She placed 12th at the World Championships in Lausanne Switzerland in 1982. In 1984 she and Satchmo represented Canada at the Olympics in LA, and then won the Canadian Grand Prix Championship. In 1986 Bonny was a competing member of the World Championships, small Tour, in Toronto receiving the team silver medal. After a "time out" from competition to focus on being a "mom", Bonny returned to competition with Pikardi. In 2010 she and Pikardi competed successfully at the World Equestrian Games in Lexington Kentucky.



Contributions to the sport of dressage:

In her long and active dressage career, Bonny has been the only Alberta rider to have successfully competed at the Olympics. She has been a great role model as a dressage rider, competitor, coach, and mentor. In her career she has developed countless dressage horses and riders that have gone on to participate and compete in the Alberta dressage community.

Active Member of ADA or Area Group:

Lack of time was the essence of Bonny's life and career. With her international travels, and then the arrival of her son and so many "mom" priorities and responsibilities, Bonny had little time to be directly involved with organizations. Her contributions have been more indirect with her willingness to share her expertise with anyone interested in learning to improve their knowledge as a dressage rider and training of their dressage horses.

Ambassador for Dressage:

Bonny is always approachable and loves to contribute to conversations about great riders and horses. She continues to coach and encourage riders to progress through their riding careers as both professionals or amateurs. Bonny has been active as a clinician in North America, and a coach to many Alberta riders.

Other Contributions:



Outside of a formal lesson scenario, Bonny willingly and spontaneously helps dressage riders to improve themselves or their horses. If she sees an appropriate moment to assist a rider having a difficult moment with their horse or themselves, Bonny with her quiet, confident demeanor, will share her expertise to help. As a rider, trainer, and coach, ADA acknowledges Bonny as a “Builder” of dressage in Alberta.

