

## Julija Ona Vysniauskas ADA Lifetime Achievement Award Presented in 2023

### Participation 25+ Years:

Julija Ona Vysniauskas, better known as Jewels, began riding at a local riding school in Cochrane more than 25 years ago. Jewels and her family own and operate Kestrel Ridge Farm which has been a pinnacle for dressage in the Calgary area. As the manager Jewels has been at the forefront of the Farm as she has managed dressage shows, clinics, and Young Rider events. Jewels has been an active supporter of Alberta dressage shows as a competitor, sponsor, and volunteer.

### FEI Achievement:

At the age of 18, Jewels became a two-time Canadian National Young Rider Champion. By 2004, after multiple successes across North America with "Syntax", she turned her focus to qualifying for the Olympic games in Athens. In 2006, Jewels and Syntax qualified and competed at the World Equestrian Games in Aachen, Germany. At that time Jewels was one of the youngest riders in the world to qualify. In 2007 multiple Grand Prix successes followed Jewels on the CDI circuit with both Syntax and Papillon. Since her achievements at WEG, Jewels has continued to train multiple horses up the levels to Grand Prix. In 2018 aboard Dream Diamond, she topped the competition at the CDI 3\* Black Tie Show in Calgary; proudly representing Canada. Jewels and Diamond continued to show at the CDI level, representing Canada in California with top results in 2019. Julija is currently campaigning her exciting young mare, Butterblume, in the 2023 show circuit at CC/ADA and EA/ADA dressage shows.



### Contributions to the Sport of Dressage:

Jewels has organized and managed multiple dressage clinics at Kestrel Ridge. With an educational focus, she is an active clinician and coach who provides feedback that leaves riders feeling more confident and positive in their riding skills. Her approach is unique, effective, and allows for continued development by the riders. Jewels supports "grassroots" shows with Ride-a-Test Days to provide all levels of riders with opportunities to develop test-riding skills. Her generous and positive feedback is valued by all.

### Active Member of ADA or Area Group"

Jewels actively supports CA/ADA and EA/ADA. She has voluntarily acted as a demo rider for the Eventing Community which has enabled CA/ADA to grow its network to encourage and include Event riders at CA/ADA hosted activities. Jewels is involved in discussion with CA/ADA about the use of her facility and education opportunities for their members. Jewels is a very active volunteer at CA/ADA events.

### Ambassador for Dressage:

As a rider and coach, Jewels works with passion, commitment, and integrity to help riders at all levels. She is always available to help and offer solutions for anything dressage! She builds confidence in riders, and makes it "fun" to ride. She has worked with multiple horses to produce positive physical and mental changes. Jewels always puts the welfare of the horse first and works incredibly hard to help riders at any



level find harmony with their horse. She actively participates in the Alberta shows, and encourages her clients to join her. Focusing on the grassroots growth of dressage in Alberta, Jewels has been instrumental in spearheading a movement to bring more clinicians to the area and making these clinics accessible to all dressage enthusiasts in our province. This project is in its infancy, but the movement has started.

**Other Contributions:**

To quote her nominator: "Coaches like this do not come around often and it's coaches like this I feel we need to recognize to ensure the future of our sport thrives."

