

Sharon Merkel - Beattie Certified Level 3 EC Dressage Coach



Hometown: Sturgeon County, Alberta

Birthdate: March 1, 1963

Birthplace: Edmonton , Alberta

Occupation: Level 3 Dressage Coach

Coach: Gina Smith

Stable: Windhaven

Sharon began riding at the age of ten after finally convincing her parents that she needed a horse. They purchased an ex-barrel racer for Sharon and her sister to share. Every day the sisters would bike five miles carting a western saddle in the back of a homemade cart to where they boarded their horse. After riding they would then bike home. This continued until they could move the horse home to their acreage.

Sharon became interested in dressage after watching Bonny Bonnelo do a demonstration at Northlands. She liked the idea of making horses dance. In order to become more involved with horses Sharon made a deal with her parents, when the time came she would go to University if they would help pay for her horses.

Upon graduating from University, Sharon took a working student position with Bonny Bonnelo in Sherwood Park. Since then she has trained with George Theodorescu, Cindy and Neil Ishoy and Gina Smith. Sharon is a certified Equine Canada Level 3 Dressage Coach. She has coached students to several National and Provincial Championships over the years including Canadian Champion Status in Arabian Dressage, Young Rider Dressage Championships in Chicago, Illinois and Jr. FEI Dressage Championships in Batavia , Ohio.

Sharon is currently heading out to Ontario to train with 3 time Olympian Gina Smith. She will be attending two CDI shows. One in Saugerties New York and the other in Devon Pennsylvania. Her intent is to obtain qualifying scores so that she can declare for the 2012 Canadian Olympic Dressage Team. Sharon's current mount is Essence of Glory a 15-year-old Hanoverian mare that Sharon trained from a four-year-old.

Windhaven, a 20 stall Dressage stable in St. Albert, Alberta is Sharon's stable which she runs along with her husband, Colin, daughter, Rachel. Windhaven is in its 15th year of operation.

With the limited spare time that Sharon has she spends time with her eight year-old daughter, Rachel, or doing Sudoku and reading.

HORSES

Essence of Glory 1996 chestnut Hanoverian mare, sired by Evergreen
Owned by: Sharon Merkel Beattie & Donna Stott

Loyal Star 2006 Holstein x Dutch Warmblood gelding
Owned by: Sharon Merkel-Beattie

Formal training

1984 Working Student for Bonny Bannello Sherwood Park , Alberta
1986 Working Student for George Theodorescu in Sassenberg, Germany
1993 Four months Training with Cindy and Neil Ishoy Hamilton, Ontario
1996 Three Months Training with Cindy and Neil Ishoy Hamilton, Ontario
2008 Two and a half months Training with Gina Smith Brockville, Ontario
2009 Two months Training with Three Time Olympian Gina Smith Brockville, Ontario

Riding Highlights

Provincial and National Level Championships from Basic(Level 1) to Grand Prix on various horses: Frowind ,
Donaufurst , Tramino and Monet.

Personally Short listed and Long listed for the Canadian Team several times.

1996 and 1997 Reserve Grand Prix Champion for Canada on Frowind.
Represented Canada at two Can- Am Challenges. Devon , Pennsylvania and Del Mar, California 1993 & 1995

COMPETITION BACKGROUND

2011

4 th Grand Prix Special	Hits on the Hudson Saugerties, New York USA	Essence of Glory
5 th Grand Prix	Dressage at Devon , Devon Pennsylvania, USA	Essence of Glory
6 th Grand Prix Special	Dressage at Devon, Devon , Pennsylvania USA	Essence of Glory
1 st Grand Prix	Amberlea Meadows Dressage Show, AB	Essence of Glory
1 st 2 nd Level	Amberlea Meadows Dressage Show, AB	Loyal Star
2 nd 2 nd Level	Amberlea Meadows Dressage Show, AB	Loyal Star

2010

9 th Grand Prix	CDI3* The Dressage Affaire, Del Mar CAL USA	Essence of Glory
6 th Grand Prix Special	CDI3* The Dressage Affaire, Del Mar CAL USA	Essence of Glory
4 th Grand Prix	CDI3*/Y/J Burbank, CA	Essence of Glory
1 st Grand Prix Special	CDI3*/Y/J Burbank, CA	Essence of Glory
Long List	Canadian Equestrian Team	Essence of Glory

2009

7 th Grand Prix Freestyle	CDI-W Neda Fall Festival. Saugerties, NY	Essence of Glory
6 th Grand Prix	CDI-W/Y/J Dressage at Devon, Pennsylvania	Essence of Glory
Champion Grand Prix	Beaulieu Dressage Classic Quebec	Essence of Glory

2008

4 th Grand Prix	New England Fall Dressage Festival, NY	Essence of Glory
Champion Grand Prix	Beaulieu Dressage Classic Quebec	Essence of Glory

1999

Individual Silver	Trivett Classic CDI, Sydney Australia	The Adjudicator
Team Silver	Trivett Classic CDI, Sydney Australia	Temuchin

1997

Reserve Champion

Grand Prix

Frowind

1996

Reserve Champion

Grand Prix
Frowind

Canada

1993

Represented Canada at Can-Am Challenge in Devon, Pennsylvania

1995

Represented Canada at Can-Am Challenge in Del Mar, California

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