

**ONTARIO MORGAN HORSE CLUB  
HALL OF FAME  
2014 INDUCTEES**

**DEANA WILSON**



Deana Wilson grew up a horse crazy kid. As typical of the Deana we know today, she did her research and ultimately selected the Morgan as her horse breed of choice. It was the Morgan's beauty and versatility that ultimately won her over.

Her sojourn into the Morgan world officially began in 1960 with the purchase of the first of her many Morgan stallions, Colbrook Moonglow. The first Morgan to hold Deana's prefix, Lauralee Dawn Duke, was foaled in 1966.....and so Deana Wilson's Lauralee legacy began. Canadian Livestock Records currently lists 48 Morgans registered with the Lauralee prefix.

Deana has owned countless Morgans to date. Each horse carefully selected to enhance her breeding program and/or her enjoyment of the Morgan horse. Over

the years several Morgan stallions have been chosen with care to cross with her equally carefully chosen mares.

Deana's stallions read like the 'who's who' of Ontario Morgan stallions. In 1966 Deana purchased the stallion Cordon Marksman, sight unseen on the recommendation of Mabel Owen for his temperament and conformation. Mark sired 30 foals including 13 part-breds. Highlights of his get include Lauralee Delia Rose (an outstanding brood mare for Deana herself and then Cathy Sampson), Lauralee Yankee Man (first Morgan for the Joyce family), Dezi Brown (amazing endurance horse for Nancy Beacon), Lauralee Jason (Park horse owned by Heather & Axel Starck). Cordon Marksman was the first Morgan horse to be inducted into the OMHC Hall of Fame.

In 1972 the stallion, Clear River Phantom arrived at Lauralee. Deana discovered a golden cross between Phantom and Lauralee Delia Rose who together produced some wonderful offspring including Lauralee Phantastic, Lauralee Phoenix, Lauralee Phanfare, Lauralee Phandel, Lauralee Phantasm. Phantom was sold to Chestnut Hill Morgans in the late 70's and continued as a breeding stallion for the Reeves family. He sired 26 foals, including 4 part-breds.

Deana continued to breed horses into the early '80s, when the decision was made to downsize. At that time all the Morgans were sold with the exception of the mare Hobbiton Eowyn (aka Winnie).

When Deana's daughter Sherri, decided that she wanted a farm and to raise a few Morgan horses, Deana was there in a heartbeat. Deana partnered with Sherri and Lauralee got rolling once again. It wasn't long before Deana was off stallion shopping. This time the 21 year old government bred stallion Mad River Bell Buoy, a retired Park horse, was selected; next came Oldtyme Dedication. The brood mare band grew as well and Lauralee youngsters for once again being produced. For a brief time Lauralee Phantasm, one of the offspring of that golden Phantom x Delia Rose cross, returned to Lauralee to stand stud.

Lauralee Phoenix, another of that golden cross, returned to the farm in the early 90's as Deana's personal mount. Deana rekindled her love for long distance riding aboard Phoenix, competing in many competitive trail rides and simply enjoying time on the trails with him.

The next stallion destined for the Lauralee breeding stallion was SHW Northern Eclipse. He arrived at the farm in 2003 as a stunning yearling bay colt. E.C. saw limited showing in hand as a youngster, and was finally broke to saddle at the tender age of 10 and was successfully shown English Pleasure. E.C. sired a few foals, some of which have been shown with success.

In 2011, Deana decided she wanted some new bloodlines in the broodmare band, so that search began. Her successful shop saw HD Aiden Lair and Boogaloo Dancer take up Canadian citizenship at Lauralee. Aiden went into training and Boo was immediately bred to Legacy's Viking, producing the stunning black bay colt The Last Viking. Boo was bred to Cartier for a 2015 foal and the hope is that Boo will break the Lauralee 'colt' syndrome and for the first time in 15 years a filly will be born on the farm this spring.

Deana's eye for a good stallion continues. In March 2014 she purchased the showy 7 year old, US Park Regional Champion, Harlan's Azurean. Az will be setting a new direction for Deana's breeding program and she is anxiously awaiting the arrival of his first foals spring 2015.

Deana has actively been a huge supporter of the Morgan Horse in Ontario and Canada for many years. She was a founding member of the Canadian Morgan Horse Club, later re-named the Canadian Morgan Horse Association; was instrumental in the creation of the part-bred registry for Canadian Part-Morgans; produced the first Morgan magazine in Canada – "Morgans in Canada" - her own venture with subscribers across Canada and the U.S; and was editor of the Canadian Morgan magazine in the 1990's, producing some of the magazine's largest issues.

Deana was also a founding member of the Ontario Morgan Horse Club, hosting the first OMHC Club meeting at her home in Inglewood in 1968; and was the club's first President. Deana worked tirelessly within the OMHC creating the OMHC's High Point, Futurity, and Youth Club and strove to ensure that the Ontario Morgan Show was the best it could be, including advocating the show's growth to a 2-day show. All challenges met with overwhelming success.

Deana has been passionate about the Morgan Horse for much of her life and in 2012 brought another of her Morgan visions to reality with the creation of the Morgan Horse Heritage Centre located on the farm in Uxbridge, Ontario. The Centre's purpose is to preserve, promote, research, educate and display the history of the Morgan horse particularly that of the Morgan Horse in Canada.

As a long time supporter of the Morgan Horse Deana has been responsible for introducing the Morgan to countless individuals.....including her own two children, son Regan and daughter Sherri; Sylvia Stringer; Tina Collins; Heather & Axel Starck; Cathy Sampson. The foundation sire of Cathy Sampson's Trillium Morgan Farm was in fact Lauralee Foxy Man.

We are very grateful for all of Deana's efforts for the benefit of the Morgan Horse in Ontario.

Deana Wilson was inducted as an individual member of in the Ontario Morgan Horse Club Hall of Fame on February 21, 2015. Deana had previously been inducted to the Hall of Fame as one of the OMHC Founding Members in 2012. Unfortunately Deana was unable to attend the induction ceremony in person but her daughter Sherri accepted the Jeanne Mellin print honourarium on her behalf.

## **SYLVIA STRINGER**



In the early 1970's Sylvia Stringer began a large riding lesson barn in Pickering. Sher-Kade, the stable name, was created from the names of two of the family's Governor General's Horse Guard mounts, Sherri and Kadie. Little did anyone know that these two mares would determine the prefix for the many Morgans Sylvia would ultimately breed in the coming years. At that time Sylvia was very involved with the Governor General's Horse Guards both as an instructor and volunteer. It was also around that time Sylvia met Deana Wilson and fell in love with Deana's beautiful Morgan stallion Cordon Marksman. She subsequently bred her Quarter horse mare, Sherri, to Marksman and so began Sylvia's passion for Morgans.

Sylvia was also very active in 4-H and dedicated over 30 years as a 4-H leader and mentor. Of course, simultaneously introducing many horse crazy teenagers to the Morgan Horse.

Sylvia bred over 25 pure bred Morgans with the prefix of Sher Kade and later SKF. She quickly became respected as a breeder of quality show horses. Among her most notably are, Sher Kade Tyberius (owned by John Beaver) who enjoyed a lengthy career as a versatile junior exhibitor mount and was the recipient of two

Justin Morgan Honours in Western Pleasure and Hunter Pleasure; SKF Jus Kiddin, who throughout her career won numerous Championships in Ontario and the United States, was a multiple OMHC and CMHA Provincial and National High Point Champion and recipient of three Justin Morgan Honours in Hunter Pleasure; and SKF Heza Smooth Operator, winner of multiple Grand National and World Championship titles in working hunter/equitation. Sylvia sold her Morgans throughout eastern and western Canada and the United States.

Although Sylvia was not among the original founding members of the OMHC, she became involved in the early stages of the Club and went on to act as a Board member, Youth Leader and President.

Among the most impressive things about Sylvia's contribution to Morgan's in Ontario is the staggering number of people she introduced to the Morgan breed and the OMHC. People like John Beaver (who is now a Morgan trainer), Sabrina Wilson, Tracey Bond, Natalie Evonic, Paula Roberts, Shirley Vis, Liz Robb, Emily and Sandra Wallace, Andrea Zemp Lehman, Kelly Pilgrim..... the list goes on and on. Of course, not to be forgotten are a couple of young sisters by the name of Joyce who bought their first Morgan from Sher Kade. Those sisters, better known today as Nancy Kavanagh and Linda Ross continue now, with their own families, as active participants and contributors to the OMHC. No question that Sylvia's love of the Morgan has had a lasting influence on her own seven children.....Sandi, Kathy, Chris, Theresa, Mark, Phil and Tina.....and grandchildren.....and great-grandchildren.

Sylvia remains active in the Morgan community and is regularly seen ringside in Ontario and the US when daughter Tina Collins and grand-daughter Mackenzie Collins are competing on their Morgan horses.

The Ontario Morgan Horse Club is extremely grateful to Sylvia, for her many years of promotion and support of the Morgan in Ontario.

On February 21, 2015 a most deserving *and surprised* Sylvia Stringer was inducted into the Ontario Morgan Horse Club Hall of Fame. Sylvia was thrilled to be in attendance and accepted the Jeanne Mellin print as a token acknowledgement of the occasion.



*Photo by Scott Thomas*

Sylvia Stringer & family with Jeanne Mellin print presented to Sylvia to commemorate her induction into the OMHC Hall of Fame.



**HIP HEATH AVALON (#6281)**  
(1984 – 2012)  
*(Courage of Equinox x Hip Heath Ulla)*



In March 1988, a Morgan gelding entered Nancy Kavanagh's life and in her words "he would change everything; he was my once in a lifetime horse". His name was Hip Heath Avalon but everyone knew him as Frankie.

Frankie was purchased by Nancy's father, Gord Joyce at the Saralin Dispersal sale as a four year old. Frankie was a very talented harness horse from the start and he was driven through the sale. As he drove up and down the Tattersall's arena during the bidding, he took Nancy's breath away.

Prior to Frankie's arrival to Canada, he had a brief but brilliant show career under the trainer Bonnie Sogoloff while owned by his breeder James Wolcott. He was Champion Stallion as a two year old at the Vermont Spring Classic and won the Driving Futurity title as a three year old at the New England show. Following Mr. Wolcott's untimely death Frankie was consigned to the sale and that is how the Joyce family came to own this magnificent animal.



When Frankie was introduced to the local show scene the summer of 1988, he won the Pleasure Driving Championship at the Ontario Morgan Championship Classic. The first of three titles he would take to retire The Equestrian Image Challenge Trophy. He has been the only Morgan to retire the Pleasure Driving trophy and the Classic Pleasure Driving Championship at the Ontario Morgan Horse Championship Classic to date. He also won the Morgan Pleasure Driving title at the Canadian National Exhibition four times, again a feat never duplicated. Frankie did eventually become a wonderful saddle horse as well and had his share of English Pleasure wins.

He amassed quite a show record and earned enough points to win three Canadian Morgan Horse Association Justin Morgan medals in Pleasure Driving and one Justin Morgan medal in English Pleasure. He also became a wonderful junior exhibitor mount and shone as an equitation horse for Laura Mills, Lisa Kavanagh and David Kavanagh. Stephanie Ross also learned to ride saddle seat on Frankie and a highlight for Stephanie was winning the walk-trot at the Classic aboard Frankie.

But it was his ability to pull a show cart around the ring that most people remember Frankie for. He had a way of going that was effortless and showy and you could tell he clearly loved his job.

While it seemed that Frankie lived a blessed life, he did have his share of misfortune too. In 1997 he somehow fractured his skull and that was a life changing moment for this Morgan and his family. The vets at Guelph University gave him a "poor to guarded" prognosis but this amazing Morgan proved his resilience and bounced back six months later. That was a very difficult time for Nancy and her family.....to see your horse so depressed is not something to be wished on anyone. It was wonderful to have him back, although not quite what he was before the accident....he was happy again and ready to compete.

One of his last outings in the show ring was Lindsay Fair Morgan Show, where at age 20 he was pinned English Pleasure Champion with Nancy aboard. What a great memory that will always be for Nancy.....beating out the young guns!

Nancy also had the pleasure of taking him on a real trail ride up in Ontario Cottage country over the Thanksgiving weekend in October of 2006. She admitted to being a little nervous about how he would do but he came thru it with flying colours.

Unfortunately the years crept up on him. It became apparent to his human family that arthritis was setting in and his back end was causing him pain. His show career was basically done but he continued to be used for lessons once or twice a week. The decision to retire him from active duty was made in August of 2007 at 23 years young. One of his last duties was giving a group of 12 year girls a pony ride at a family birthday party in October of 2011.

Spring of 2012, it became evident his health was in rapid decline; the decision to let him go was made and on May 2, 2012. At the age of 28 he was laid to rest at Cyan Star Morgan Farm; buried beside his former stable mate, Acoma Morningstar.

On February 21, 2015 the Ontario Morgan Horse Club was extremely pleased to honour the outstanding Morgan ambassador Hip Heath Avalon with his induction into the Ontario Morgan Horse Club's Hall of Fame. Accepting this award were Frankie's life partners...Nancy Kavanagh and family.



*Photo by Scott Thomas*

Nancy Kavanagh & family accepting plaque presented in commemoration of the induction of Morgan horse 'Hip Heath Avalon' into the OMHC Hall of Fame.