

## 2018 OMHC Hall Of Fame Inductees

### David Dew

(pictured with Danny Easter Vermont)



Walter Charles David Dew was born to a farming family in Wiltshire, England in 1942. He developed a love of horses from his maternal grandfather, Grandpa Richards, and was a member of the Tedworth hunt for many years.

While attending a Young Farmers Dance he met Pam who was teaching in the West Country. On their first date, he proposed and also told her what they would name their first child. They were married two years later. They settled in Pewsey, Wiltshire, where Pam was teaching and David farming. In 1968 Anthony was born. Soon after his birth they decided to emigrate to either Australia or Canada. The Canadian Government was sponsoring young farming families looking to start afresh and the Dew family were perfect candidates. In 1971 they packed their belongings and headed for a job in Paris, Ontario, working at a sizeable hog operation.

In 1972 David answered an ad in a farming magazine looking for a farm manager to run the Adanac Horse Farm in Elizabethtown, Ontario. Mr. Parker, the owner, was happy to employ them and Pam started teaching for the local board. Later that year their daughter Lisa was born. They lived at the farm in Elizabethtown until 1977 when Mr. Parker's health started to decline and he decided to sell up. He sold the Dews the farm name and they built a smaller farm north of Cobourg taking with them several of the Adanac horses. When the Dews moved into the new farm, the barn walls were complete and there was hydro and running water, but the house had no interior walls!

In 1981 the Dews took Pam's mare Adanac Comtesse to New York to be bred to the Herrick stallion Elm Hill Charter Oak; the resulting offspring was the Dew's "big red stallion" Adanac Redd Oak. Redd had personality to spare, a beautiful head, and over 20 offspring from his years as a breeding stallion. Abi's Roger Oak (Genevieve Kendall-Hayes mount), Phalean's Redd Aura (Axel and Heather Stark) Abi's Nancy Oak (UCM Morgans), and Adanac Rite of Spring (Melanie Giddings) are just a few of his best-known progeny. He passed on his fabulous temperament to all of his offspring. One year at Syracuse a gentleman, whose mare was injured, approached David and asked if he would consider hitching Redd Oak to take his mare's place in the carriage driving classic. Redd had never worn breeching and had never pulled a carriage, but David's response was "sure". It went flawlessly and both David and his passenger, the carriage owner, had a great time. Redd himself was never officially broken to ride, although Anthony jumped on him bareback in the crossties one day and then rode him around the arena! David and Pam showed Redd extensively in hand and in harness in both Canada and the US.

The Dews expanded the Morgan breeding farm into a boarding and teaching operation – at one time offering lessons six days a week and camp in the summer months. They also raced both Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds and coached several very successful eventers. David's student, Kim Ito, represented Ontario and won a silver medal at the North American Young Riders Championship while Cassandra Jeschke won the OHTA Training level Eventing Championship. Former pupil Anne McCaughey-Wu was the Canadian Junior OCTRA champion for two years. Adanac Horse Farm has produced three very successful female Jockeys: Kim Ito, Melanie Giddings and Cassandra Jeschke.

David has three great passions in the horse industry: showing horses in hand, driving and lead line. Many people will remember his "encouragement" of Anna Wishart on her way up the chute at the CNE one year; everyone watching commented on the lovely leg action from David, and the horse. After years of watching him show or showing with him, the family had the distinct pleasure last year of seeing him "schooled" by a 12.2h Welsh pony. Never turn your back on a pony who wants to roll in the show ring!

He loves driving park horses, pleasure horses, carriage driving or pony driving and he's well known for a little showmanship in the ring. He can often be seen fixing his hat or gloves and adjusting his apron just to prove to the judge that this horse is indeed a pleasure to drive and that one hand on the reins is all that is needed.

In June of 2017 David suffered a serious accident courtesy of a young mare and spent many months in hospital and rehab. He is now back at home and looking after his horses again. The pace is a bit slower but many people still go to him for advice. He has just put a horse in harness for one of the boarders and is teaching her to drive. He and Pam are very proud grandparents of two boys and two girls, one of whom, six-year-old Gabe, keeps him on his toes in the barn and in the lead line classes at local club shows. Amazingly, Pam is now in her 55<sup>th</sup> year of teaching grades 11 and 12 and David will never give up his horses.

Nominated by Brenda Casteels

## Shamrock Seville

(with Bob Thomas, owner, whip)



With four young children and a love for horses, our family was ripe for the introduction of a Morgan. What we were not prepared for was the change that it made in our lives. We had bought one Lippitt mare, Ryegate Matilda (Stillwater Indigo x Royalton Mary Mary) but had a 2-stall barn (you have heard this story before). So when we learned that Mary Mary was for sale, all six of us headed to West Virginia in the family van. The Wootens were dispersing and it was their near-black, 4-year old Lippitt stud **Shamrock Seville** (Moro Hills Marquis x Ransomvale Jamie) that caught our eye.

He had been trained to saddle and was a natural park horse, having won the Novice Park class at Syracuse. In our heads it made no sense. A stud around children? A park show horse? All we wanted was another family horse. But our hearts were won over by his incredible disposition and typey good looks. You can guess our decision. They delivered Seth to the Niagara border in August and we took him immediately to the CNE show in Toronto. Bob's sister Shirley Foster had shown Saddlebreds and needed little encouragement to dust off her saddlesuit and take him into the ring. Seth loved the showing so we next headed to the Erie County Fair in New York which boasted a large Morgan competition. Naively entering every class possible, Seth won them all with the exception of the Stake, when he broke stride in the canter (probably from exhaustion).

The barns at these fairgrounds were not in great repair. So fearing our new family member might get loose in the night, all six of us camped overnight on straw bales in the adjacent stall. We were on a roll. How could we stop? Unknowingly, we had entered the show world and Seth loved every minute. A quiet, relaxed, 14.3-hand horse in the barn that we used for bareback kids' rides at birthday parties, he could "turn it on" in the ring. These were fun years... Grand Champion in-hand at the Ontario show, reserve the next year as well as innumerable wins in park saddle and similar achievements in New York, Michigan, Vermont, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Texas and Pennsylvania over the next 15 years. He won championships and many reserves as well as twice being named Lippitt of the Year. Perhaps the most memorable was the Michigan All-Morgan where in 1987 he won the Open Park Saddle Championship and returned the same night to take the Amateur Park Stake honours as well.

Seth spent some time with Ken Martin in Michigan and also with Jon and Sherry Rivers in Texas. Jon laughs that Seth was the first horse that he had ever kissed after winning the Pleasure Driving Championship with him at a Texas show. In later years, we enjoyed many carriage competitions with him proudly hitched to a Park Gig, including winning the Grand National Turnout class in Oklahoma in 2000. He produced 31 registered foals in Canada.

The 25-years of his life was commemorated by 25 happy daffodils marking his final resting place beside the paddock where he spent so much time overlooking our farm. Cancer took his life, but nothing can ever erase the memories or joy that he brought to our family and so many others. He was our forever horse.

Thomas Family Morgans  
Bob & Marge Thomas  
Nominated by Christine Monteith