



HALL OF FAME

**FOUNDERS' AWARD
INDUCTEES**



The Ontario Morgan Horse Club (OMHC) Hall of Fame was established in 2011 to recognize and honour the people who have made significant contributions to the development of the Ontario Morgan Horse Club and/or Morgan horses in Ontario; and, to recognize and honour the horses who have been outstanding Ontario ambassadors of the Morgan horse.

The first meeting of the Ontario Morgan Horse Club was held on May 4, 1968 in Inglewood, Ontario at the Lauralee Morgan Farm. At that meeting twelve very committed Morgan owners decided it was time to organize their efforts and the Ontario Morgan Horse Club was born.

These Morgan owners were already extremely active with their Morgan horses. To celebrate Canada's Centennial in 1967, Nancy Beacon organized the first Morgan Field Day (today's terms would call that the first Morgan Horse Show) at the Chinguacousy Club in Caledon. Anna Ela, of Townsend Farm, Massachusetts, judged. Morgans with their owners came from near and far to make this event a success and it also provided the opportunity for them to get to know one another better. This group was committed to the breed but realized they needed to be organized in order to continue their efforts. The spark came when Deana Wilson invited them to meet at her home to work out a plan. This was the needed catalyst and in May 1968, the Ontario Morgan Horse Club was officially launched.

The Club events in 1968 were very impressive. They included a 2nd Morgan Field Day, this time judged by Mabel Owen, of Merrylegs Farm, Massachusetts; Morgan classes were included at the St. Catharines Kiwanis Horse Show, Kingston Festival Show and London's Western Fair; and Morgans participated in the all breed Rockwood Trail Horse Trials, the

Ontario 30 Mile competitive trail ride and the Markham 50 mile endurance ride. It took off from then and our Ontario Morgan Horse Club is one of the most, if not the most, successful Morgan Clubs in Canada, thanks to the very good stewardship we've had from the very beginning.

Those twelve committed forward thinking Morgan owners and supporters that met on that spring day in May 1968 were there at the Club's beginning and in 2012 are honoured as the inaugural inductees to the Ontario Morgan Horse Club Hall of Fame as recipients of the Founders' Award.

They are:

Jack and Kay Reeves
Nancy Beacon
Deana Wilson
Bruce and Betty Brown
Fred and Jean Smith
Roy and Beatrice Boyt
Mr. and Mrs. Herb Philpott

The following pages provide a brief background of these Ontario Morgan Horse Club pioneers.

JACK AND KAY REEVES



The Reeves family became Morgan owners in 1966 with the arrival of the colt 'Hippothes'. With 'Hippi' in tow, Jack, Kay and young sons Greg and Geoff moved to the farm in Uxbridge. It wasn't long before the mare 'Williams Drumlin Lou' and her daughter 'Aristippi' were added.

In no time the Morgans began to multiply at that Uxbridge farm. With the cross of 'Hippi' and 'Lou', that produced the mare 'Chestnut Hill Juno', Chestnut Hill Morgans was born. As of this writing, Canadian Livestock Records lists 43 Morgans registered with the Chestnut Hill prefix. The Reeves' Chestnut Hill Morgan Farm attracted numerous visitors and introduced many to the Morgan breed of horse. People that became owners and or breeders of Morgan horses themselves or simply Morgan horse fans.

Jack and Kay brought the yearling colt, 'Hippothes', to the first Morgan Field Day in 1967. 'Hippi's' transport was a single axle one-horse trailer pulled by their family station wagon. Somehow during the trip he managed to turn himself around in that narrow trailer and on arrival was gazing out the back. When a fellow exhibitor commented on 'Hippi's' unorthodox position, Jack's quick reply was "That's the only way we could get him loaded." The day progressed and

Kay, although totally inexperienced, was called on to do the show ring honours with the youngster, as Jack's arthritis was acting up and he couldn't run. That day the show bug bit Jack and Kay and the Reeves family have never missed an OMHC show since.

As a family, they were dedicated to the breed from the start. When the Club was formed, Jack and Kay were there and provided their total support to the Club and Morgan horses in Ontario from that moment forward. Both Jack and Kay worked at the provincial and national level for the Morgan breed. Jack also served internationally and was instrumental in establishment of the AMHA/CMHA registration reciprocity agreement.

Although Kay has passed on, Jack continues to support the Ontario Morgan Horse Club in numerous ways.



Jack Reeves
with
'Williams Drumlin Lou' (#455)
(Lippitt Field Marshal x Long View Lass)

DEANA WILSON



Deana Wilson's first Morgan was purchased in 1960; 'Colbrook Moonglow' was a son of 'UVM Colfield' and was bred by Graham Bockus of Foster, Quebec. More Morgans followed and by 1968, five Morgans had found their way into Deana's barn and 2 foals were on the way. 'Cordon Marksman' was purchased as a 2 year old stallion in 1966 and with that, Lauralee Morgan Farm became a reality.

Deana, with her young children, Regan and Sherri, moved to a farm in Inglewood in 1968 with the specific plan to breed Morgan horses. Several mares were purchased and some leased for showing and breeding. And indeed breed they did. Canadian Livestock Records currently lists 48 Morgans registered with the Lauralee prefix. The first being Lauralee Dawn Duke foaled the spring of 1966.

Deana attended that first Morgan Field Day in 1967 and from there she said it seemed natural to organize an entity to continue the show and promote the Morgan breed. The Canadian Morgan Horse Club had been founded in 1960 and Deana had been a founding member of that Club so she had some practical knowledge of how to start a Club. It also helped that she was a member of the young New York State Morgan Horse Society and had that example ready at hand for programs and activities of a blossoming local Morgan club.

It was Deana who organized that fateful meeting at her Lauralee Morgan Farm on May 4, 1968 that saw the formation of the Ontario Morgan Horse Club. Deana was elected the Club's first President. She has served the Club in many capacities since that day and has, and continues, to promote the Morgan breed to all comers. Countless people have been introduced to the Morgan horse through initial contact with Lauralee Morgans. Joland Morgans, Cyan Star Morgans and Trillium Morgans are just a few of today's familiar names whose first Morgans were Lauralee bred horses.



Deana Wilson
with
'Cordon Marksman' (#418)
(Bro-Rock March On x Merry Cordelia)

NANCY BEACON



Nancy Beacon arrived in Ontario from Alberta in the early sixty's with two Morgans in tow: 'Hillaway Red Wing', who became the first Morgan to hunt with a recognized hunt in Ontario; and 'Shasta' a nice western Morgan from the Jackson Ranch in Montana.

After living in the west, where every show or event was 300 or more miles away, Nancy thought Flesherton was close to everything! She settled down there but she found out that somehow the miles are longer in Ontario.

In the mid sixty's, Nancy's mom, a lifelong knowledgeable Vermont horsewoman, decided Nancy needed a better Morgan for showing and competitive trail riding, so 'Pill Peddler's Henry', better known as "The Pill", came to Canada. Many more Morgans followed over the years including the extraordinary endurance horse 'Trija's Whipperpopper'. Nancy's name is well known and highly respected in the competitive trail riding world.

Nancy was devoted to the Morgan and was a founding member of the Canadian Morgan Horse Club (now Association). In 1967, for a centennial project, she organized a Morgan Field Day (an unrecognized horse show) at the Chinguacousy Club in Caledon. Anna Ela came up from Massachusetts to judge and work with the exhibitors. Morgans came from near and far to compete.

Nancy attended that first meeting in May 1968 that saw the founding of the Ontario Morgan Horse Club. She worked for many years in various capacities with the Club and assisted in organizing assorted activities. One of Nancy's greatest qualities is her ability to mentor and she has encouraged many people, including a number of Morgan owners, along her life's path. Nancy continues to be a great Morgan supporter.



Nancy Beacon
with
'Hillaway Red Wing' (#101)
(Milaca Major x Susette Jarnette)

BRUCE AND BETTY BROWN



Bruce and Betty Brown with young daughter Cheryl lived adjacent to the Queen Elizabeth Way in Burlington where people driving by could see the Brown's working with their Morgans. Bruce could regularly be seen out driving the young Morgan horses and Betty and Cheryl riding. It was great exposure for the breed.

Bruce and Betty were well established by the mid 60's with importing, breeding and selling Morgans. Their horses brought many new people into the breed, such as Fred & Jean Smith and Barry and Nora Ann Cooke.

They took a very original approach to naming their Morgan youngsters and rather than using a prefix for the foals, the Brown's used a suffix and each horse's name ended with Brown. For example 'Becky Ann Brown' and 'Judd Brown'. One of their better known foals was 'Dezi Brown' ('Cordon Marksman' x 'Kay Jay Spar') who became a champion stallion, a park horse and later a wonderful 100 mile endurance horse with Nancy Beacon.

Bruce and Betty attended that fateful meeting in May 1968 that led to the founding of the Ontario Morgan Horse Club. They were great supporters of the Morgan and regularly attended shows, trail rides and other events the Club put on. They also held offices in the Club at times.

FRED AND JEAN SMITH

Fred and Jean Smith waited until their family grew up and left the nest before finding and settling on their 10 acre lot near Campbellville. They had always loved animals and wanted horses and dogs. This was to be their opportunity to realize that dream....with one small problem to overcome....their new property was a Christmas tree farm. Year by year those trees were sold off, making room for a house, a barn and paddocks.

They bought their first Morgan, 'Lynlea's April First', in 1967 as a foal from Bruce and Betty Brown. This purchase started them down the slippery slope of Morgan ownership. One Morgan leads to another and first thing they knew, the Smith's Morgan band had grown to five or six! Fred and Jean bred a few Morgans that were named using their Lynlea's prefix, but found it was emotionally too difficult to sell them. Their breeding activity was therefore discontinued. Canadian Livestock Records lists six Lynlea's Morgans.



'Lynlea's Playbeau" (#417)
(Beau Sealect x Greengates Play Girl)

At one point they brought the National Park Champion (Saddle and Harness), UVM Jason home and showed him at our Ontario Morgan Show.

Fred and Jean were strong supporters of the Morgan breed and the Ontario Morgan Horse Club right from the beginning in 1968 until the end of their days.

ROY AND BEATRICE BOYT

Roy and Bea Boyt operated a summer horse camp, riding lesson program and horse training venue at Silver Acres Training Centre outside of St. Catharines.

In the early 1960's they met Merle Evans of Ohio, who owned the Devan Stud where he bred the Devan Morgans. Merle came to Silver Acres and he and the Boyt's became good friends. The Boyt's subsequently imported many Devan Morgans and began selling, breeding and training them. These Morgans were used in their lesson programs for many years. Several of their students and staff purchased Morgans from them. As did other future Club members, including Luc and Diane Caron ('Silver Liebling') and Axel and Heather Starck ('Devan Play Boy').



Silver Liebling (#623)
(Dezi Brown x Devan Lorna)

The Boyt's took an active part in promoting the Morgan in all areas; exhibiting their Morgans in several divisions, enjoying pleasure rides and even did some competitive trail riding. Roy and Bea were instrumental in obtaining Morgan classes at the St. Catharines Kiwanis Horse Show and the first Morgan show put on by the Ontario Morgan Horse Club was held at their Silver Acres. They were ever present at the Club's activities whether it be shows, trail rides, clinics or meetings.

Roy and Bea attended that May 1968 meeting where the Ontario Morgan Horse Club was founded and continued to promote the Morgan horse throughout their days.



Bea Boyt
(circa 1981)

with

'Acoma Morningstar' (#2570)
(Applevale Challenger x Flair's Allenda Rose)

MR. and MRS. HERB PHILPOTT

The Philpott's fulfilled their dream of acreage in the country with a pretty ten acre plot on 19th Avenue in Markham. There, they and their daughter Peggy, built a lovely home and a small barn.

The search began for the horse of their dreams. They found him in 1966 and the weanling colt, 'Lauralee Dawn Duke' found a stall their barn. They also acquired a part Morgan mare, 'Pet', to keep him company. Deana Wilson sold them 'Duke' and she recalls how excited and enthusiastic Herb was with his Morgan. When 'Duke' was finally old enough to ride, he was sent out for training and he became a wonderful mount for Herb.

They brought 'Duke' to the Morgan Show once where he acquitted himself well and went home with several good ribbons.

Although new to the breed, the Philpott's were staunch Morgan supporters and were in attendance at that May 1968 meeting where the Ontario Morgan Horse Club was founded. They believed in the Club. Unfortunately they were but briefly with the Morgan Club as Herb became ill and passed away in the early 1970's.



'Lauralee Dawn Duke' (#277)
(Whippoorwill Duke x Dawn Rose)