

### **Claire Errington Wahl – OMHC Hall Of Fame Nominee**

On behalf of a few OMHC members, past and present, I would like to present for consideration: Claire Errington Wahl.

Claire wasn't a founding member but she certainly involved from early on. I personally met Claire in 1976 when our family discovered the Morgan show at Sutton Fairgrounds and we spent the day watching and Claire was the first person to introduce herself. You don't forget a person like Claire, she was full of life and love for the Morgan Horse. She invited us to join the OMHC and told us a little bit about the club and soon we started trying a meeting and took our Morgan to the Fun Day in 1976. She was like that, always introducing new people to the club, the breed, the Morgan events. She was passionate about the breed and did amazing things for the young club. The portfolio I remember the most was that she chaired was the Youth group. She had as much energy as the kids and for every meeting, she would volunteer to pick up kids all of the countryside to bring them to the meetings in her RV! She organized a trip to UVM for the kids. She strived to get them through the CMHA horsemastership programs. Two of the youth members she affected were Karen Emond and Kim Blease.

"Claire approached me as she would anyone, with confidence and a loud voice, saying out loud, what many of us feared to say! She decided what was going to happen and I was along for the ride! It sounds like a cliché to say she changed my life, but she really did. She taught me horsemanship, manners, public speaking, community service and perseverance. Without meeting Claire, I would never have met the Reeves family so it is with confidence and in a loud voice I say she changed my life!" Karen (Emond) Hugya

Axel and Heather Starck are two members who remember Claire's early days too!

"Our memory of Claire was someone passionate about training and showing her Morgans. Always presenting her horses very well too!

The horses she had were Adanac Brigadier, believe her first Morgan but she also had Adanac Lancer so not sure if Lancer could have been the first one but seem to think Brigadier was the first. Others to follow were Lauralee Phantastic. From the US she had Burkland Revelation, Lou-Pat Rebel, think he was Revi's son, Rapidan Fame, leased Saddleback Sensation, a breeding stallion who sired some great champions in Ontario, 2 that come to mind Chestnut Hill Mr. T and Joland Ovation. I believe she brought Saddleback Squire a youngster whom was a son of Sensation at the same time as Sensation. I believe she also brought up 2 Ledgemere horses, one being a filly Ledgemere Larisa whom I think she sold. She bred Philaire's Pigure. Phaelene we bought from Claire had the Philaire prefix also.

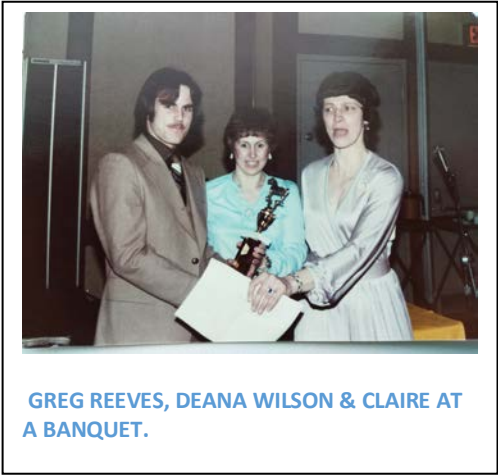
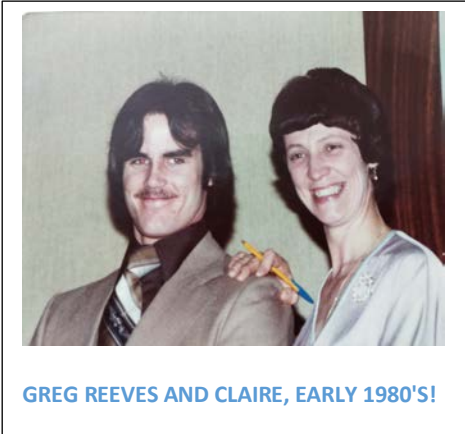
Claire was a dynamic person at the horse shows that never went unnoticed. She was competitive but always positive to encourage people."

When Claire brought Burkland Revelation to Ontario, she ultimately changed how we started to look at show horses. 'Revi' was incredible and incomparable. He was a typy bay gelding, just like the Justin Morgan statue in Vermont but he had an engine with motion and a higher headset then most of our Ontario Morgans had in those days. He rode and drove and did with it style. He was a trendsetter as was Claire with her beautiful saddle suits and shiny patent leather boots. She was always ahead of the style curve.

Claire re-located to the US where she worked at Saddleback Farm in NY for a while and then off to Colorado where she got involved in other non-horse endeavours. She had said that after she lost Revi, she lost a lot of passion for

Morgans, it hurt her deeply to lose her heart horse. She is a Life member of both the OMHC and CMHA. I think Claire is a perfect candidate for the OMHC Hall Of Fame.

Karen Hugya, Heather & Axel Starck, & Nancy Kavanagh (Thank you to Karen for the pics.)



## HALL OF FAME NOMINEE – ADANAC KATINKA, PART 1.

In 1978 my sister Nancy and I felt it was time for a new challenge after many years of owning our first Morgan, Lauralee Yankee Man. So that is how in the fall of 1978 our father, Gord Joyce, took us to the Adanac Horse Farm of Pam and David Dew where we ended up falling in love with a weanling, Adanac Katinka. This dark chestnut filly was full of life and presented the challenge that Nancy and I wanted. She was out of Fanchon River and sired by the great Green Meads Rebel.

That first winter we dedicated much of our time to training our new filly in preparation for the upcoming 1979 show season where we planned to show off our brand new yearling. Her first show was the Ontario Morgan Horse Classic at the Sutton Fairgrounds where our well-behaved Katinka did well throughout the show and I placed third out of 10 in the Youth Showmanship class where she displayed just how calm and trustworthy she was even as a yearling. Over the course of the next few months Katinka and I continued to place very well in every Showmanship class we entered together, with the highlight of our season being placed third out of 26 entries at the Orono Fair.

As a two-year-old, Katinka was sent back to the Dew's to be broke to harness. We showed her under harness that year at the Ontario Morgan Horse Classic at Sutton Fairgrounds, but by the fall of 1980 when she was broke to saddle, it became clear that being under saddle was what she would excel at. By this time she was a good 15 hands tall and was extremely comfortable to ride.

In 1981 as a three-year-old, Katinka made her under-saddle debut at the Brooklin Fair where she won the Western Pleasure Championship out of eight. That year we took her to the Ontario Morgan Horse Classic, the CNE, Orono Fair and Uxbridge Fair where she dominated. Katinka and I became an impressive team in the Western Pleasure Division.

In true versatile Morgan form we started showing Katinka in English Pleasure as well as Western Pleasure in 1982. She did well the entire 1982 show season but the highlight of the year was the CNE Morgan Division. In the English Pleasure class she placed first out of 18 and in the English Pleasure Championship she was first out of 13. In the Western Pleasure she was first



LINDA ABOARD KATINKA AT MARKHAM FAIR

out of 10 and in the Western Championship she placed first out of six. In the Mares Halter Division she was Grand Champion Mare and Canadianbred Champion. Needless to say the Joyce girls were extremely proud of their Morgan mare!

Throughout the 1980s Nancy and I continued to enjoy showing Katinka with much success in the show ring. During this time Katinka also became the perfect trail riding horse for us. We enjoyed taking her to the Vivian Forest north of Stouffville for an afternoon of

hacking where Katinka was always a good listener and often was the leader on these trail rides.

By 1987 we made the decision to lease Katinka to be bred. She was leased by Marie Riordan to be bred to her stallion Lauralee Phantasm. The next year in 1988 Katinka miraculously gave birth to a set of healthy twins, a filly named Tazlie's Ariskataz and a colt named Tazlie's Alkatanz. Katinka and her twins made the front cover of the American Morgan magazine that year and were highlighted in an accompanying article.

Katinka came back to us that year in foal after being bred to Phantasm again and the next spring she gave birth to a healthy colt named Joland Cavalier, aka Kato. As a weanling, Kato was sold to another Morgan enthusiast, Nancy Miller, who became our closest Morgan friend.



KATINKA WINNING THE WESTERN PLEASURE CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE CLASSIC WITH LINDA AND GORD JOYCE



KATINKA WITH LINDA (JOYCE) ROSS

Eventually we decided again it was time for a new challenge and knew that Katinka could help safely usher in the next generation of Morgan horse lovers, so the decision was made to sell her to Jill Mills of Electra Morgans and Katinka would spend the rest of her life with Jill and her family.

Over the course of her showing career, Katinka collected enough points to earn two English Pleasure Justin Morgan Awards and one Western Pleasure Justin Morgan Award, but her successful showing career wasn't the only reason Katinka personified the perfect Morgan horse. She was a "Cadillac" to ride; she was comfortable and a great listener. She was versatile in and out of the show ring and an extreme pleasure to own. She excelled at both Morgan shows and open breed shows and was an excellent example of the versatility of the Morgan horse.

### ADANAC KATINKA, HALL OF FAME NOMINEE – PART 2!

Katinka Has a New Friend. 1988

As many of you know, Nancy Kavanagh and her family support and coach many young riders wanting to be part of the Moran experience. Jill was not unlike many others. She began taking lessons with Nancy, and Nancy paired Jill up with a very reliable and steady mare. Adana Katinka, a beautiful, big mare with lots of presence. Jill was quite small and looked like a peanut on her. Surely this mare would run amuck with such a tiny rider. But Katinka looked after her. After many lessons, it became apparent the two were just a great match. And so, I am sure with tears in Linda's and Nancy's eyes, Katinka moved to Electra Morgans to share paddocks with other Morgans and most importantly Jill.

From that day on, Jill was Katinka's trainer and Katinka was Jill's trainer. They spent many, many hours riding at home, and Nancy was good enough to drive a loooong way to keep coaching. Jill began showing Katinka at the Morgan shows when she was eight. Katinka never let her down. Trustworthy Katinka became Jill's brother, Tim's, walk trot horse and took him to a blue ribbon at the CNE.

But it was with Jill that she really became the most diverse horse possible. Katinka won many red ribbons as junior and open hunter pleasure, western pleasure, and as an equitation mount. Katinka became almost unbeatable. There are numerous "end of the year" high point awards. At the age of 10 at the CNE, Jill rode Katinka to a red ribbon in Open Hunter Pleasure and Reserve Open Hunter Champion in a very packed field. Two years later, the pair duplicated that achievement.



JILL AND KATINKA

Under Nancy's guidance, Jill and Katinka started working over fences. Katinka was a willing partner and Katinka took red ribbon at the first over fences class at the Classic in another full field.

But it wasn't just at the shows that Katinka was an amazing horse. Jill and Katinka took a back seat to no one at the Fox Hunts, bare back racing with her sister, hacking

through snow, riding/swimming across a pond, or races and steady hands at fun day activities. **She did it all and willingly!!**



ON THE HUNT (KATINKA IS CIRCLED)



JILL AND KATINKA SHOWING GREAT FORM!

Katinka passed away earlier than anyone would have wanted. Her later years were relaxed and easy and well deserved for such a special horse.

WRITTEN BY CAROL TERENTIAK (JILL'S MOM!)

### Equinox Beau Dandy



**June 16, 1998 – July 27, 2017**

We met Equinox Beau Dandy while on vacation with our 'horsey' friends in Manchester Centre Vermont almost 19 years ago. Of course, I insisted on a visit to Ivan Beattie's East of Equinox Farm - a favorite of mine since I got into Morgan horses! Ivan was telling our friends about his horses and showing them off (I knew them all inside out and backwards!) while I leaned back against a corner stall in his 250 year old barn. A little nose kept trying to nuzzle me through the bars so when Ivan was finished, I asked who this little guy in the corner was. He cheerfully brought him out saying that this was his little 'fun' horse. When Beau came out he pumped himself up as big as he could and as much as winked at me when he pranced by. What everyone else saw was a very 'growthy' coming 2 yr old, what I saw was perfection!! I knew all of his bloodlines so well that I could easily see him in a few years from now. Even in his growth spurt, he showed symmetry and balance that was unique for such a young horse. His personality sparkled, Tim could see that I was very taken by him. He asked Ivan the ultimate question - "So, is he for sale?" Ivan's response sealed our fate and a few short weeks later Beau arrived at Sunny Acres - bright-eyed, ears alert, shiny jet black and well behaved, it was love at first sight! He was a 'Dandy' all right! - and very importantly, he was mine.

I started working with Beau as soon as he was settled. For such a young stallion, he was incredibly easy to work with. He learned two of the hardest lessons very quickly, i.e. what good manners were and how to be patient. He was alert and ambitious so he learned very quickly and enjoyed his work! We developed a unique and very strong bond right from the beginning and I always felt that he would do anything within his capabilities to please me. These capabilities proved to be many. He was extremely versatile. With my background in dressage, this was the basis of everything that we did so that his natural symmetry and balance would shine through in his work. In the open competition dressage ring, his 14.2hh frame with it's power, brilliance and obedience, showed up and often beat the big warmbloods. This easily transferred into his carriage work where he really shone. Carriage driving and combined driving were his strengths by far. I have had many great driving horses but the connection that I had with Beau at the end of those long lines was like no other. The smallest aide was all that I needed - he knew what to do. Even though he was a real 'go' horse, he would stand like a statue for as long as needed in those carriage classes. Other competitors even remarked on how well behaved that he was. On cross-country courses, no matter

how long or difficult they turned out to be , he never backed down but pushed ahead, finishing almost as bright as when he started.

Another discipline that we had fun with was western pleasure. I couldn't exactly say how we did it because he liked very much to move out, but somehow he figured out from small aides, that I wanted him to stay collected and so, he did. This lead us into western dressage, an easy concept for him by now.

Beau had an intense show career but some of our favorite times were on hacks and pleasure drives, just relaxing and enjoying one another.

Beau won some year end dressage awards locally but his biggest achievements were winning the high point carriage horse in our Ontario carriage club (previously, the Golden Whip), placing in the top 5 in all of his classes at the Walnut Hill Carriage competition in New York and winning classes in Oklahoma at the Morgan Grand National and World Championships in carriage driving. He also came 3rd in the World Championship Western dressage section.

Another important function that he provided was as a Morgan ambassador. For 3 years he delighted crowds at the Can-Am Equine extravaganza, 'Cactus, Cattle and Cowboy Days' in West Elgin and at various functions that we have held at our farm. Many people fell in love with his bright, alert and handsome appearance and were entertained by his inviting and sparkling personality. This was reflected in the many, many e-mails that we received, complimenting us on our beautiful Morgan horse.

For his free time at home he loved to play, enjoying his freedom with all of his athletic enthusiasm. His shiny black coat and flowing mane conjured up the best memories of the 'Black Stallion'. He'd even flag his big Morgan tail. We used to put him in our front field, but his playful antics and stunning appearance stopped traffic so, to prevent any accidents, we moved him to a more concealed field! He didn't mind though, he'd still play about and carry on. Nothing happened at the farm that he didn't know about, of this it was quite certain. He was the 'king' in his mind and this was his place. I on the other hand was his keeper and protector so he looked to me for any direction. From the time that I entered the barn to the time that I left, I felt his gaze. He watched me like a hawk, waiting for me to get him out - how could I not! He would always come out of his stall the same way that he did the very first time that I saw him - proud and prancing but just at my side,

There is a huge void here now, without him. I miss him every day so very much and will always miss him. I often wondered how it came to be that he picked me but one thing that I know for sure is that our lives were blessed when he arrived. We will be forever grateful for the time that we were given to spend with him. I can say with 100% confidence that he never put a foot wrong, any mistake was mine and mine alone. He was a most precious gift, may he rest in eternal peace.

With much Love and Appreciation ,

Wendy and Tim