

## NANCY KAVANAGH



It is said that this Hall of Fame inductee, along with her sister, were horse crazy kids. Am sure their parents thought this silly horse obsession was a phase to be outgrown. Well 50+ years later the horse passion remains at the heart of both these ladies, specifically for the Morgan Horse. We are very pleased to induct Nancy Joyce Kavanagh into the OMHC Hall of Fame

It all began in 1969 with Nancy and sister Linda, taking riding lessons at a stable in Pickering, ON eventually known as Sher-Kade, owned by Sylvia Stringer! It was here that the Joyce sisters were introduced to The Morgan Horse. In 1974 they got their first Morgan, Lauralee Yankee Man. Yankee may not have been the 'morganyist' Morgan, but that horse could jump! In 1976 the Joyce family attended the 1-day Morgan show at Sutton Fairgrounds as spectators. That was followed by their attendance at the OMHC Fun Day at Chestnut Hill Morgans with Yankee; then to their first OMHC meeting and became official members in 1977. They met many lifelong friends in these early years including the Reeves Family, Deana & Sherri Wilson, Kim Blease, Claire Wahl, Anita Jackson, Nancy Beacon, Heather & Axel Stark, and many more!

In 1978 a 2nd Morgan, Adanac Katinka, was purchased. Nancy's parents, Gord and Jo Joyce, ever supporters of their daughters' passion, bought a small hobby farm outside of Stouffville in 1979 to house the increasing Morgan population. Next came Acoma Morningstar in 1980!. She was the ultimate family horse and graced the family with 4 foals over the years. This was the start of Joland Morgans.

During the '80s Nancy (and Linda) showed Katinka and Star, got very involved with the OMHC club; Dad Gord served as the Club's President; Nancy married Brian Kavanagh; raised their kids and began her saddle seat coaching career. Some of her notable students included Andrea Zemp (Lehman), Laura & Jill Mills, John Beaver, and of course the Kavanagh children Lisa, David and Danny.

Nancy also wanted to establish a small breeding program, and their first foal was Joland Ovation out of Star and by Saddleback Sensation in 1984. This was followed by Joland Kavalier, a few years later, out of Katinka and by Lauralee Phantasm.

In 1988 Nancy and her father Gord, attended the Saralin's Dispersal Sale and came home with a hot-to-trot 4-year-old gelding, Hip Heath Avalon (Frankie), and a beautiful yearling filly, Saralin's Markesa (Kasey)! Frankie and Kasey were game-changing horses for Nancy and Linda. Nancy and Frankie won many Pleasure Driving titles both in Canada and in the USA and Kasey was a rock star in the Mares In hand and English Pleasure divisions. That year Nancy and Brian purchased their first farm in Port Perry, ON and so began Cyan Star Morgans.

Joland Morgans and Cyan Star Morgans produced 11 foals to date. Each breeding carefully selected and the youngsters given the best starts. It may be small compared to a lot of other breeders, but Nancy is proud of her breeding program and has paired all of these Morgans with lifelong partners.

In 1994 Nancy and Brian sold their farm 'to take a break'. I don't know if boarding 5 horses at 2 different barns could be considered taking a break, but they wanted to focus on their family, and along came their 2nd son and 3rd child, Danny!

In 1998 they purchased their next farm, just north of Port Perry, where the clan called home for the next 20 years. It also became home to Kavanagh Training Stable in 2009. Nancy was now the supportive parent of David when he wanted to start his own training facility. With David and Lisa so active with the horses, Nancy opted to step back from the show ring. It wasn't until Cyan Star Trinity came along that got her excited to be back in the saddle!

Nancy Kavanagh has been an avid competitor in the show ring. A few highlights (as there are too many to share) include winning the Amateur English Pleasure Mares class at the NY Regionals with Star in 1986(?), winning the Pleasure Driving title 3x at the OMHC Classic and 4x at the CNE with Frankie, winning Res. Champion Amateur Pleasure Driving with CBMF Undeniable at Syracuse International in 2014, showing Jordan and Alphastar

First Asset at the Morgan Grand National & World Championships, and winning Grand National Amateur Mares In hand with Cyan Star Countess in 2019!

A chapter certainly closed for Nancy in 2018 when they sold their farm and decided to board out her remaining horses. Cyan Star Countess has returned from training and lives 10 minutes down the road. Nancy plans to continue showing Tess in the years to come as Jordan is slowing down.

Over the past 45 years, Nancy has served as an OMHC board of director, president (2001-2004) and/or secretary, which she currently holds. She was integral in starting the OMHC Hotline sales list. She has been the OMHC newsletter editor on and off for many years. She has put together membership directories, flyers, brochures etc... for the club to be used as promotional material at various events. She currently looks after the OMHC website and has for years, updating information and pictures regularly to keep us all informed! She was also a founding member of the Hall of Fame committee.

She has participated in countless promotional events on behalf of the club. She participated for many years at the Royal Winter Agricultural Fair, Can-Am Equine Expo, Uxbridge Horseman's Association events and the Scugog Horse Tours Day. She has organized numerous events for the club as well including clinics of all kinds, fun days, awards banquets, educational youth days and hosted many OMHC meetings at our farm. She additionally was involved in seeing the Morgan Horse Heritage centre get started, under the direction of the late Deana Wilson.

She was the Show Chairperson for the OMHC Championship Classic for many years. She was essential in securing the Caledon Equestrian Park for the show in the early 1990s. Once she stepped down as show chair, she has continued to serve as a committee member of the show.

Not only has she been an asset to the OMHC, but the Canadian Morgan Horse Association has been lucky to have Nancy involved over the years. She has served as the Ontario Zone Director, acted as the Equestrian Canada representative for the CMHA, been a member for various sub-committees, such as high-point, registry and magazine and now currently is the president! Not to mention she spent 20 years as the CMHA office administrator.

She also contributed many hours to Saddle Seat Canada & getting the Beginner Instructor of Saddle Seat riding recognized with Equestrian Canada. She also is very involved with the Equine Foundation of Canada, a charitable organization that seeks to raise and donate money to various equine related services and organizations.

Over the years Nancy has gained so many friends through the horse world, too many to name here! She would not have been able to do what she has done without the support of her parents in the early years, her sister Linda, her husband Brian, and having a couple of horse crazy kids/grandkids to keep the fire burning all these years later!

Thank you Nancy for all your support of the OMHC and the Morgan Horse in Ontario. It is an honour to present you with this memento of your most deserving induction into the OMHC Hall of Fame.