

Joe Selinger



2003 Alberta Horse Industry Distinguished Service Award

A Horseman with the gift to both recognize potential and also teach to maximize that potential is a rare and valuable commodity. Combine that gift with relentless enthusiasm, strong work ethic, and an entrepreneurial spirit, ... the result is a crown jewel. Joe Selinger is indeed a crown jewel within Alberta's Horse Industry.

Joe arrived in Canada in 1957 with little more than a dream and a vision. Over the next five decades, he transformed that vision into a number of landmark events. The flying of horses from Europe, the importation of Hanovarians, the development of the Warmblood/ Sport Horse industry, the introduction of a number of key future leaders to various areas of the industry, dedicated training programs and year round facilities, and the development of formal assessment criteria for improving the performance horse are all a remarkable part of his pioneering/entrepreneurial achievements.

Fun and enjoyment were an integral part of each lesson given by Joe over the past 45 years. Quietly and masterfully entwined within that fun were the multitude of skills and disciplines he knew would serve and protect those students the rest of their lives.

Often honoured by the Industry and his peers, his self professed greatest honour remains seeing the lifelong joy of horses he instilled in so many. And when a series of adversities challenged his dreams, his drive and contagious enthusiasm for the Horse sped the recovery

each time.

It is with pride that the Horse Industry Association of Alberta bestows its Distinguished Service Award on Josef Selinger - in recognition of his lasting influence and contributions to the equine industry in Alberta.