



**2016 MH LESSARD
DRESSAGE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR:
RENEE DEGARIE**



Renee DeGarie of Fredericton, NB has been named the MH Lessard Dressage Volunteer of the Year for 2016.

Twelve years ago, dressage in New Brunswick was in decline. Renee faced this challenge head on, and along with her mother, Diane and sister, Michelle, marshalled a handful of other dressage enthusiasts to rekindle the Dressage New Brunswick (DNB) organization.

As an NBD Board member, Renee not only sought to support the growth of the sport, but also to start leveraging the Princess Louise Show Park, which was newly-finished at that time. Thanks to the unflagging enthusiasm of Renee and the DNB Board, today the organization runs as many as five full, three-day EC Bronze/Gold competitions annual from May to October. Participation has grown from an average of 25 horse-rider combinations the first year to over 60 in recent years.



In addition to competitions, through DNB, Renee works with stable owners and the New Brunswick Equestrian Association (NBEA) to help run educational clinics, manage an active social media network, and actively seek and promote sponsors.

Renee has been part of a core group with DNB that have been the backbone of the organization for the long haul. Through her commitment to the growth and development of the sport, Renee has helped to provide a ladder that allows riders to progress from Training through to the FEI levels, and a venue and opportunity for para-dressage athletes to enjoy competing at home in their own province.