

Media Advisory

Ottawa Dressage Festival 2015 – see Canada’s best riders and horses compete to represent us at the Toronto Pan Am Games

May 28 – 31, at Wesley Clover Parks, Nepean

News today – Friday !!!

Brittany Fraser, riding “All In”, won the Prix St-Georges competition this morning and Megan Lane riding “Caravella” won the Grand Prix. Ottawa’s Deputy Mayor, Mark Taylor, presented the ribbon and prize for the Priz St. Georges. There will be a chance to see Brittany and All In compete again tomorrow along with Canada’s other top riders. The show at Wesley Clover Park starts at 8:00AM and runs until late afternoon. Admission is free.

Ottawa, ON, MAY 15, 2015 – This weekend’s Ottawa’s Dressage Festival (ODF) is the last competition for Canadian riders hoping to qualify for the upcoming Pan Am Games (July 10 – 26) in Toronto. Ottawa gets a chance to see our very best dressage competitors from Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and British Columbia, as well top riders representing Ecuador, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic. 140 riders are competing.

At the same show, Junior and Young Riders are competing to represent Canada at the North American Junior and Young Riders Championships in Lexington, Kentucky.

The ODF offers a great opportunity for families in Ottawa to visit Wesley Clover Parks, a beautiful facility on 270 acres easily accessible off the Queensway in Nepean. The grounds provide a scenic backdrop for spectators to enjoy the beautiful art of dressage.

The ODF is an annual event that dressage riders and spectators shouldn’t miss. It helps promote amateur sport and focuses on all levels of riders. At this competition our highest level of riders are competing and children are competing too. Dressage is one of the equestrian sports in both Olympic and Pan Am Games where animals and humans compete together as a team.

Community support and local volunteers make the ODF a success. The ODF also enjoys great community sponsorship. The title sponsor is the Brookstreet Hotel.

Today’s Olympic sport of dressage began when the Greeks were training their horses for battle. Horse and rider perform a series of movements, that demonstrate a horse’s natural athletic ability and willingness to respond smoothly to a skilled rider’s minimal physical commands. Competitors ride a series of individual tests of increasing difficulty, and each movement, such as a change of gait, a circle, or a lateral movement, is evaluated and scored by judges.

What visitors can expect to see from horse and rider at the Ottawa Dressage Festival

Both horse and rider are dressed formally. Dressage horses are impeccably groomed, with neatly braided manes and trimmed flowing tails. Riders are also neatly turned out in white breeches, dark coats, tall black dress boots and equestrian helmets.

During a dressage routine, the horse performs a many complicated physical movements including extended and collected walk, trot, and canter, along with lead changes, figure eights, pirouettes, and half passes. Haute école dressage horses, those trained to the highest level, also perform movements like the piaffe, a trot held in place so that the horse appears to be dancing. In the freestyle events, horse and rider perform to music.

The competition takes place in four outdoor arenas of Wesley Clover Parks.

Vendor booths offer great equestrian and other merchandise for riders and non riders.. Catering on site by The Marshes Golf Club.

Admission and parking are free.

Behind the scenes access and interviews with participants, show organizers and volunteers, along with photo and video opportunities are available by contacting:

Debra Robinson
ODF Communications
Representative
613-244-4334

debrawrobinson@rogers.com

Site map and directions:

www.nationalcapitaldressage.ca

On Saturday competition starts at 8:00AM and runs until late afternoon featuring riders in 4 rings. - Another chance to see our Pan Am contenders.

On Sunday, starting again at 8:00AM you can see dressage freestyle, where competitors ride complex patterns to music and the horses seem to dance.

National Capital Dressage Inc. is a private, non-profit group which has been formed purely to ensure the growth and future development of the Ottawa Dressage Festival (ODF). Our goals are to promote the sport of dressage in the National Capital Region and to offer a competition where riders from across the Americas can perform and compete.