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Jane (at right) will be honored for a lifetime of dedication.

Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association Founder Jane James to be inducted into the North Cowichan-Duncan Sports Wall of Fame

Duncan, Vancouver Island, BC,

October 22, 2015

On Saturday, November 14, 2015 Jane James will be among those inducted to the *North Cowichan-Duncan Sports Wall of Fame* at the *Cowichan Golf and Country Club*. Jane is the founder of the *Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association* and one of the key contributors to therapeutic riding and para-equestrian sport in Canada.

Jane began her career in the 1960s, riding and training horses in the Duncan area. She completed accreditation as an equestrian coach by the 1980s teaching many to ride and serving as a Leader with the local 4H club. In 1986 Jane founded a local chapter of the *Pacific Riding for the Disabled*, a program that provided therapeutic riding for persons with disabilities. Shortly after, this fledgling program became an independent entity named the *Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association (CTRA)* and grew dramatically over the following years. CTRA relocated to its current location on *Providence Farm* in the late 1980s and under Jane's guidance developed into a vital community institution – providing life-enhancing services for countless individuals and families over the years. In 2007 Jane retired from her position as Executive Director with CTRA but continued to do what she loved by remaining on as a member of the Instructor staff (and resident expert). In late 2014, Jane retired from her Instructor position at CTRA, but continues to teach riders with special needs in her new neighborhood at the *SaltSpring Therapeutic Riding Association*.

Jane's accomplishments extend far beyond the local level. Jane is an accredited Coach and Examiner with the *Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association*. Jane has served in many capacities under this national governing body – playing no small role in shaping the structure and standards of therapeutic riding in Canada. Jane was also a co-founding member of *Para-Equestrian Canada*, the para-sport division of *Equine Canada* (the national governing body for horse sport). Accreditations include that of Dressage Steward with *Equine Canada* and Para-Equestrian Steward with the FEI (*Fédération Equestre Internationale* - the international governing body for Olympic equestrian disciplines)

Jane's extensive resume includes such roles as Chef d'Equipe with the *Canadian Para-Dressage Team*, Chair of the *Canadian-Para Equestrian Committee*, and numerous positions as Director with organizations like *Horse Council BC*, *Dressage Canada*, the *BC Therapeutic Riding Association*, and the *Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association*. She accompanied Team Canada to the Paralympics in 1996 (Atlanta), 2004 (Athens), and London (2012). Past awards include a *Black Tie Award* for Outstanding Community Service from the *Duncan-Cowichan Chamber of Commerce*; a *Coach of the Year* award from the *BC Disability Association*; a *Coach of the Year* award from *Horse Council BC*; and a *Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal*.

Induction to the *North Cowichan-Duncan Sports Wall of Fame* is an appropriate tribute to Jane, as a dynamic individual who has managed to make our community a better place while simultaneously building therapeutic riding and para-equestrian sport across Canada.

Ticket for the November 14th Induction Ceremony are on sale for \$15 at the North Cowichan Municipal Hall.

To learn more about the Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association contact:

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To learn more about the 2015 North Cowichan – Duncan Sports Wall of Fame Awards and Induction Ceremony contact:

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