



85TH
ANNIVERSARY
MUSICAL RIDE

September 26, 2021

*Celebrating 85 years of
Lancers, the Musical Ride,
and the Horses of Halifax*



1936



1986



2019

**THE HORSES
OF HALIFAX.**
For 85 years

PROGRAM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021
3:00PM

MC

*Amy Smith, host of CBC Nova Scotia News and
Atlantic Tonight*

Guest of Honour

Elizabeth Johnson, Alumna, 1950-1961

Welcome

Opening remarks, COVID protocol reminder, sponsor appreciation, introduction of Halifax Lancers

Land Acknowledgement

85 Days of Lancers

Therapeutic Riding Testimonial

Megan Pegg

Musical Ride Performance

Description of the shapes and spirit as imagined
by Mr. Dick Zwicker, Founder.
Sponsors of the Horses of Halifax

Presentation of the Pony

Elizabeth Johnson presents "Modern Melody" (Eddie)

Passing of the Lance Ceremony

Prefaced by Elizabeth Johnson

Closing Remarks



1949 Musical Ride Performance at the CNE, Toronto

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you!

Amy Smith

MC

We are so appreciative of you sharing your time, expertise, and passion for horses with us.



Elizabeth Johnson

Guest of Honour

Your words of wisdom, support, and reminiscence are an inspiration.



J2K Properties

Silver Sponsor

Your support is greatly appreciated.



Black & McDonald

Bronze Sponsor

Thank you for your support.



Vision Apparel

Musical Ride Breeches Sponsor



VISION APPAREL

Atlantic Live Stream

Videographer



Nicholas Sumner Photography

Photographer

Janice Palmer & Daniel Chevalier

Photographers

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Halifax Lancers' programs takes place in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. The territory is covered by the Treaty of Peace and Friendship, which Mi'kmaq and Maliseet People first signed with the British crown in 1725.

Lancers are grateful that we are able to live in this place and work with horses, powerful and majestic animals who inspire us and teach us to care about others, think less about ourselves, and respect and cherish nature.

We are all Treaty people. To learn more about Treaty Education in Nova Scotia, please visit: <https://native-land.ca/>



**The first Musical Ride Performance, 1936,
Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition**



**Lancers perform at a Victory Loan Parade,
Second World War, Halifax**

LANCERS: SINCE 1936

Established in 1936 to enable “city-children” to experience the benefits of riding horses, Halifax Lancers is a non-profit riding school in downtown Halifax and operates to make the sport of riding accessible for all. Lancers are known for their famed Musical Ride.

The only urban non-profit riding school in Canada, Lancers runs both junior and adult lesson programs, and since the 1960s, has been home to the therapeutic riding program. The programs help riders develop confidence, responsibility, community-mindedness, and sustain their physical and mental health. Lancers thrives by fostering an environment of teamwork and inclusivity amongst all our riders.

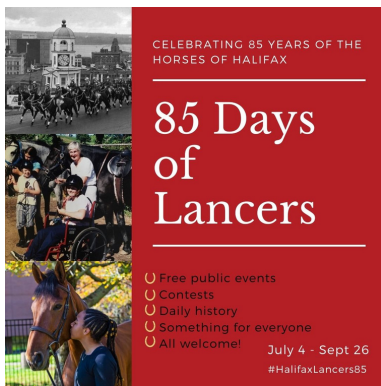
The Horses of Halifax are all owned and cared for by Halifax Lancers and have played an important role in the civic life of Halifax for over eight decades. The mission of Lancers is to build better lives through horses.



The Musical Ride performance in Boston in 1947 was sponsored by the Government of Nova Scotia in appreciation of the support given by the people of New England during the Halifax Explosion thirty years earlier in 1917

85 DAYS OF LANCERS

On July 4, 2021, Lancers launched 85 Days of Lancers, an initiative to celebrate Lancers' 85th Anniversary. Service to the Nova Scotia community forms part of Lancers' core values, and the organization sees itself as the steward of the Horses of Halifax. The focus of 85 Days of Lancers was about showing gratitude for being a part of the Halifax and Nova Scotia community and giving back to the people through various activities:



To share the story of Lancers and the Horses of Halifax, a daily chronological history was featured on social media to show the ways Lancers have served the people of Nova Scotia and how the horses have changed the lives of thousands of people over eight decades.



To revive an annual event that was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic, the 30th Downtown Horse Show was fun for riders and brought a traditionally rural competition right to the core of Downtown Halifax.



To share some good luck with the people of Halifax, there was a Golden Horseshoe Hunt. 28 gold-painted horseshoes, each belonging to one of the Horses of Halifax, were hidden across the city for anyone to find!



To provide people of all ages with the opportunity to experience the joy and magic of what it feels like to ride a horse at least once in their life, free pony rides held over five weeks brought smiles to hundreds of faces.



To remark on the Lancer legacy, an Honour Guard and procession was held as a memorial for Mr. Dick Zwicker who created the Musical Ride in 1936 and by extension, Lancers.



To honour every horse that, over the past 85 years, has shared its heart, talents, and spirit with riders, The Lancer Legion of Honour was established as a lasting virtual memorial.

As today marks Day 85, it is only fitting that the 85 Days of Lancers culminates in a Musical Ride performance.

INTRODUCING HALIFAX LANCERS



This event also marks another significant milestone as it is the first Musical Ride performance under our new name. Officially and legally, the name has changed from Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers to Halifax Lancers. This change has been a strategic priority for the non-profit organization since 2018, and this name better reflects who we are today as an equally historic and modern organization.

Lancers does not have military ties and the words “Bengal” and “Junior” do not accurately reflect who we are today. As an inclusive 200 member organization, we provide riding lessons and therapeutic programming to people of all ages and abilities. The city of Halifax has always been our home, and we have served its people for 85 years. Our new name better reflects that Halifax and Lancers are inextricably linked. We invite you to refer to us as Halifax Lancers or Lancers as you become familiar with our new logos!



Our former name originated from a 1935 action film entitled “Lives of a Bengal Lancer”. In 1936, to provide children living in the city with access to the sport and to give them a goal to which to apply their skills, our founder M.B. Dick Zwicker established The Musical Ride, a youth equestrian performance set to music. Zwicker was captured by the romanticism of the film’s riding scenes, and the

Musical Ride adopted the Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers name. While the existing Lancer crest that has been our visual symbol for years will continue to be an important part of who we are (and will continue to be used for ceremonial purposes), we felt it was important to create a fresh logo that reflects our name and mandate. This new logo is still steeped in symbolism:



- Red and blue are our official colours
- The font is reminiscent of the 1930s, but is also modern, representing our past, present, and future
- The word Lancers is slightly bigger than Halifax representing that in a way, Lancers supports the city of Halifax in helping shape young people and the lives of many through sport
- The horse head is identifiable and symbolises that at Lancers, everything we do is made possible with the help of the horses
- 1936 is the year we were established
- The lines are modern representations of the Lances in our crest and in the Musical Ride
- The surrounding border represents the unique shape of our barn as seen from Bell Road. This architecture is a fundamental part of our heritage status
- This shape is also symbolic because as Lancers, we know the magic that happens within the walls of the barn



Even at the age of 85, you’re never too old to make a change. While we honour our past, our new name and logo is an exciting step forward for our historic organization, and we hope that you share our excitement as we continue to contribute to the Halifax community by building better lives through horses.

Yours truly and always,

Halifax Lancers

THE POWER OF HORSES

Therapeutic Riding Testimonial

by Megan Pegg

Lancers has been home to an active therapeutic riding program since the 1960's, further fulfilling the Lancer mandate of making horses accessible to all. I would like to give a rider in the program the opportunity to share her experiences with you. Megan Pegg has been riding at Lancers for 28 years. She was born prematurely and has cerebral palsy. Equine therapy is used to help many children with cerebral palsy develop muscle strength and coordination.



Megan and
Cash, 2008

"Horseback riding has had a huge impact on my life since the age of four, when I started riding on a donkey in West Lawrencetown. When I started riding I could not sit up on my own and required assistance from two volunteers to hold me up. I came to Lancers at the age of six, because of the Therapeutic Riding Program, which was led by Sallie Murphy. With the help of horses, and a lot of hard work, I progressed from being held up by two people on a donkey to being able to walk on my own and thrive as an independent adult.



Megan and
Pumba with
Sallie Murphy,
2016

Indeed, horses taught me how to walk by being my legs for me as a child. I will be forever grateful to the horses who have helped me in my life, including Pumba, Punkin and Ben who is my current partner at Lancers.



Megan and
Scooby, 2019

Being a part of the Lancer Community has positively impacted every part of my life. Horseback riding provides me with confidence in my studies, increased physical wellness, mental clarity, emotional support and has given me confidence, both in sport and outside the arena.



Megan and
Ben, 2020

The love for horses is something I can share with the riding community and animal lovers everywhere. Sharing my experience today at our 85th anniversary highlights the impact the Horses of Halifax has on my life."

THE MUSICAL RIDE

The Musical Ride began in 1936 by Mr. Dick Zwicker as Canada's first youth equestrian "drill team" performing precise choreographed shapes and figures to music. From both the 16 horses and riders, the Musical Ride requires great technical skill and ability but also patience, character, dedication, and determination.

The Musical Ride is a wonderful showcase of the horse's adaptability and skill, as it is only one of the many roles they play at Lancers. Besides the Musical, ride each horse also takes part in conventional riding lessons, therapeutic riding, as well as competing at various equestrian competitions throughout the province. The Musical ride is put together each year with the help of many dedicated volunteers.



1956 Musical Ride Performance,
Annapolis Royal

Through the Musical Ride, riders would learn leadership and teamwork. From Dick Zwicker's original inspiration, each movement was intended to teach youth about life and leadership.

"The Hour Glass" - The passage of time

"Thread the Needle" - Learning how to skillfully navigate through conflict

"Four-leaf Clover" - Represents varying schools of thought uniting for a greater purpose

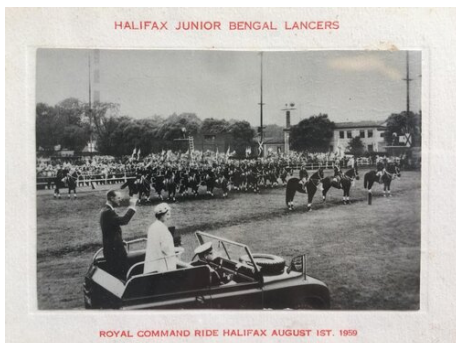
"The Canada Geese" - World travelers who never forget where they come from

"Crossing of the Quadrants" - Working together to find our way

"The Star" - Small units lending their support to bigger things

"The Wheel" - Symbolic of progress

"The Maze" - Confusion into which we all lapse at times, and we look to our leaders to bring us back to our purpose



1959 Musical Ride for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth
and Prince Philip, Wanderers Grounds



1987 Musical Ride at Equiganza,
Wanderes Grounds

2021 Musical Ride

Ella MacDonald - Leader
Elise Lutwick Campbell - Leader
Lucie MacDonald - Leader
Elsa Holt - Leader

Ami Karakach
Alison Brennan
Jenna Tarrel
Ava Sumner

Marguerite Dunkley
Leah Chevalier
Julia Corsten
Catie Beed

Claire Mawdsley
Raeya Smith-Evans
Esmee Chapman Belliveau
Maya Hocquard

Spares

Grayson Neumann
Dimitra Kanellakos
Madeleine Campbell
Manya Zimei Sodhi
Bella Gardin

Honour Guards

James Jakeman
Laodiki Lutwick Campbell
Misha Chuntao Sodhi
Emily MacLeod
Stirling Gunn
Brooke Naas
Evelyn Fennell
Jess Jakeman
Piper Grasse



The 85th Musical Ride Horses of Halifax

**THE HORSES
OF HALIFAX.**
For 85 years



Bud

For many years, Bud was in the Musical Ride and he has now graduated to the important role of introducing the Musical Ride with Angie, our Executive Director and Head Coach! Bud is well known at Lancers as Mr. Wonderful. While he is one of our biggest horses, he is a gentle giant and carries anyone from the smallest to the tallest riders through their first lessons.

For the 85th, Bud is ridden by Angie Holt and is generously sponsored by the Fennell Family.



Cory

Cory is the fearless leader of this year's Musical Ride. He steps into this role after having spent only less than a year at Lancers. Despite his larger than life presence, he is a very easy-going horse who loves living in the city.

For the 85th, Cory is ridden by Ella MacDonald.



Baloo

Baloo was the (not-so) fearless leader of our last Musical Ride. Despite being a city horse for many years now, skateboards are still his worst nightmare! Baloo is full of character and loves to interact with visitors at our arena fence line. For the 85th, Baloo is ridden by Elise Lutwick-Campell and is generously sponsored by SOMA Vein and Laser Centre.



Merlin

Merlin is sure to catch your eye with his impressive presence. Don't let his big size and personality fool you – he can be quite spooky and might even be scared of his own shadow! For the 85th, Merlin is ridden by Lucie MacDonald and is generously sponsored by Ride A1.



Mato

Mato is handsome and stoic but shows off his playful side in turnout! He can often be seen playing "halter tag" or throwing around a pylon with his best friend Jack. For the 85th, Mato is ridden by Elsa Holt and is generously sponsored by Charles & Anne Gunn.



Alice

Alice is our resident schoolmaster. She knows her job very well and takes care of her beginner riders. She still gets very excited every time she heads towards a jump. For the 85th, Alice is ridden by Aminata Karakach and is generously sponsored by Gayle Gorman, Norwex Independent Consultant.



Rainey

This sweet mare is Rainey. In the show ring she is known as “PS I Love You”, where PS actually stands for “poop stains”! There is a long-standing theory that light-colored horses purposely roll in mud and manure to camouflage themselves. Rainey has a friendly and gentle personality and loves the time her riders spend grooming to keep her clean. For the 85th, Rainey is ridden by Alison Brennan and is generously sponsored by Huestis Insurance Group.



Vanna

This stunning mare is Vanna. She didn't have much experience before coming to Lancers last year but has amazed us with her willingness to learn. In the show ring, she is known as “Holiday”. If only all of our holidays were as lovely as Vanna! For the 85th, Vanna is ridden by Jenna Tarrel and is generously sponsored by John & Wendy Tarrel.



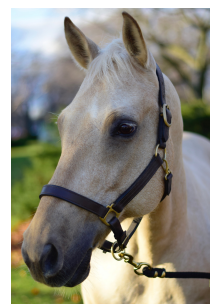
Doc

Doc is a bit of a local legend here in Halifax! He keeps up to date on his social life and has even gotten to meet other local celebrities including Gus the tortoise and his namesake Dr. Strang! For the 85th, Doc is ridden by Ava Sumner and is generously sponsored by FREE PEOPLE Events.



Giquau

This lovable horse is Giquau. He has a sweet personality and is often thought of as a big teddy bear. He is a strong and robust horse who always shows us his gentle side. For the 85th, Giquau is ridden by Marguerite Dunkley.



Ben

His show name “Purely Gold” refers to both his coloring and his heart of gold. He knows his job and maintains a slow a steady pace to keep his riders safe. For the 85th, Ben is ridden by Leah Chevalier and is sponsored in Honour and memory of all those who have supported our equestrianism.



Candy

Candy's talent and versatility make her an excellent school horse. While she can easily trot quietly in a beginner lesson, she is just as happy to gallop through cross country trails. Candy bears the special responsibility of taking many riders to their first off-property horse shows. For the 85th, Candy is ridden by Julia Corsten and is generously sponsored by Gayle Gorman, Norwex Independent Consultant.



Jack

Jack is well known at Lancers for his cheeky and playful personality. Jack is named after our farrier, Jack Zeggelaar. For the 85th, Jack is ridden by Catie Beed and is generously sponsored by Real Clarke.



Scooby

Scooby is a superstar school pony, and his calm nature can boost the confidence of any new rider. When playing Western games like barrel racing, however, Scooby returns to his Quarter Horse roots and shows off his speedy side!

For the 85th, Scooby is ridden by Claire Mawdsley and is generously sponsored by John & Wendy Tarrel.



Linus

Linus is the smallest pony at Lancers and has proven to be an escape artist! He is a very happy pony and whether he is attempting to escape through the arena fence, in a lesson with a rider or munching on hay in his stall, he always seems to have a "smile" on his face. Linus is ridden by Raeya Smith-Evans and is generously sponsored by Knife For Hire Catering.



Ollie

Ollie is about as strong-willed as they come. He is not always easy to ride but is extremely talented and enjoys speeding around jumper courses and playing in the water sprinklers! Ollie is ridden by Esmee Chapman Belliveau.



Comache

This adorable pony is Comache. We recently discovered that he loves to snuggle up close to his best buddy Linus. He sometimes even tries it with a rider on his back! This should come in handy during his first year as part of the Musical Ride. Comache is ridden by Maya Hocquard and is generously sponsored by Scott, Vanessa and Maya Hocquard.

PRESENTATION OF THE PONY

We are pleased to welcome a new pony to Lancers as they become the newest member of the Horses of Halifax. For many years, the names of Lancer horses contained the word "Melody" as a reference to the Musical Ride. Melody Magnate, Gilbert's Melody, and Edgemore Melody were all Lancer horses from the 1930s-50s. Over the decades, the tradition waned. We proudly revive this tradition and that of a "Presentation of the Pony".

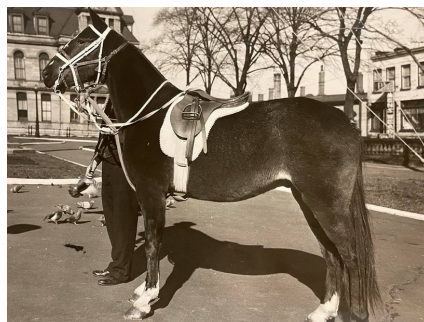


Modern Melody, "Eddie"

Presented to Lancers by
Elizabeth Johnson
Our Guest of Honour

Elizabeth rode at Lancers as a child from 1950-1961 when many horses had "Melody" in their name. She was a leader in the Musical Ride, did the famed "tent pegging", and earned her Pony Club A certificate - among many of her equestrian accomplishments.

Elizabeth's husband was also a Lancer and he performed in the 1947 Musical Ride in Boston. His aunt, Enid Johnson, was also a rider and was instrumental during Lancers' early days. In 1962, Elizabeth and her husband purchased Willowbank Farm in the valley in 1962. Their four children, Andrew, Debbie, Margaret, and Rebecca have all been competitive riders. Their family has, and continues, to make a significant contribution to the Nova Scotia equestrian community. We are also indebted to Elizabeth for her recent donation of a significant amount of historical material from the 1930s-1960s, which she organized and curated during the spring 2020 lockdown. Our 85 Days of Lancers histories would not have been possible without her generous donation which has reunited us with our history.



*1940s Presentation of
the Pony to
Lancers, Halifax City
Hall*

PASSING OF THE LANCE CEREMONY

As a community, we come together to recognise the hours, energy, passion, and love the riders have given to Lancers. As our motto (Docti Ductui) says, they have been “taught for leadership”; they have led the way and instilled so much in their fellow Lancers. Graduating riders will physically and symbolically pass their lance down to younger riders.



We invite the following graduating riders to "pass their Lance":

Ella MacDonald

Elise Lutwick-Campbell

Aminata Karakach

Alison Brennan



2019 Passing of the Lance Ceremony

THANK YOU

for joining us in celebration of:

- 85 years of teaching children and youth
- 85 years of urban school horses living in the city
- 85 years of youth-led leadership
- 85 years of the Musical Ride
- 85 years of serving the people of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Canada through horses and sport
- 85 years of building better lives through horses

Here's to another 85!



Silver Sponsor