

Greg Reeves

On November 12, 2014, the equine community lost a great horseman one of its VIP's; Greg Reeves slipped away from us at the age of 54. He had accomplished so much during his lifetime with horses and in particular the Morgan Horse. He and his family helped to establish international recognition of the Morgan breed in Canada.

The Reeves family became Morgan owners in 1966 with the arrival of the colt 'HippoHous'. With 'Hippi' in tow, Jack, his wife Kay and young sons Greg and Geoff moved to a farm in Uxbridge. It wasn't long before the mare 'Williams Drumlin Lou' and her daughter 'Aristippi' were added. Chestnut Hill Morgans was created!

From those humble beginnings it would be the mare Aristippi that would become such an important part of Greg's life and without a doubt the best horse they would ever own.

In 1974 the family travelled to Detroit City for the Morgan Grand Nationals. Greg and Tippi had practiced trail routines all year long. In the season leading up to the '74 Grand National Tippi had shown trail 12 times, 10 firsts and 2 seconds. Greg now 14 years of age showed Tippi and put together one of the best runs of her life. She was up against pro trainers and horses from all over the US. Tippi was called out Grand National Trail Horse Champion! It was a win that truly did put the farm and Canadians on the 'map.' She was the first Canadian owned horse to win a Grand National title. Tippi died at Chestnut Hill in 1987; As a team, Greg and Tippi put the family on the map however she took it further and really put a spot light on Canadian Morgans for the first time. In Greg's own words: "She was a special horse for me and without a doubt was the best horse I ever rode; after all, she took me to the best win of my life."

Greg mastered riding and driving whether it be Saddle Seat or Western pleasure, trail or pleasure driving and his experiences made him an ideal judge. And when teamed with his brother Geoff, they could show an In Hand horse like nobody's business! He became a judge of Morgan horses and also had his Saddlebred & Arabian card. He was well respected as a judge and did a lot of shows all across Canada. He was fair, he was impartial and he enjoyed his job. At the 2014 Canadian Morgan Horse Convention he was asked to partake in a judge's panel where he spoke passionately about the pleasures he experienced and all the great horses he saw.

Greg was competitive, he didn't like to lose but he was always gracious and losing a class just made him work harder next time. He wasn't just a rider, he was a trainer and always sought out the solution to help his horse be better. He attended clinics and gave clinics often without charging for his time. He donated his time and talent to many events for the Ontario Morgan Horse Club, Canadian Morgan Horse Association and the Quarter Horse Association also benefited from his experience. He designed many of

their trail courses and during the winter season, he would host fun trail ride clinics at the farm for the boarders.

He was a member of the Cdn Morgan Horse association for 35 years, was a long-time member of the OMHC and sat on the OMHC board as well as chairman for the Morgan Horse Championship Classic for many years. He was a terrific negotiator and always fought on the show's behalf to get a fair deal.

He travelled to many of the CMHA conventions (often with his dad) and was especially good at hospitality. A smile and a funny story was his trademark and he had a lot of stories to share that would have you rolling on the floor.

Greg and his Morgans earned many Championships in the show ring and high point awards. His gelding Chestnut Hill Sealect earned enough points to be awarded the Superior Justin Morgan Honour which only a handful of Morgans have earned to date. There are many more, too numerous to mention but suffice to say, he won a lot in competition!

But Greg will be remembered for so much more than the ribbons and trophies. He was part of a family dynasty that created and built a solid foundation for the Morgan breed in Ontario and Canada. Off spring from their exceptional breeding program are found and winning all across Canada and the United States and I wouldn't at all be surprised if some haven't found their way to Europe. Greg was continuing the legacy that his parents started, albeit on a smaller scale but never passed up a moment to bring his mare Chestnut Hill Felicity to the shows. In 2014, Greg and "Missy" were the OMHC Western Pleasure Champions. His beloved Missy is now retired but remains a special part of the Greg Reeves legacy.

Also in 2014, Aristippi was the recipient of the OMHC Hall Of Fame Award which meant the world to Greg.

I remember the first time I met Greg and his Family; my family visited the Ontario Morgan Horse Show to watch in 1976, we were new Morgan owners and wanted to meet other Morgan Horse owners. A park harness horse became a runaway and Jack, Greg and Geoff mounted on their Morgans chased after the runaway and brought him down. (The horse was fine, the show cart, not so much!) But this was my introduction to the Reeves boys, real life cowboys!

That is how Greg would like to be remembered, a guy and his horse enjoying the ride of a lifetime.

Thank you for giving me the chance to tell you a little bit about my friend Greg. I miss him terribly and the Morgan world has lost one of its best friends.