

Borge Olsen – Nomination for Lifetime Achievement Award

Borge Olsen, who turns 94 this year, is considered to be the “grandfather” of vaulting in Canada. His early efforts to develop the sport are credited with helping to usher this country into the international vaulting arena.

Born in Denmark, Borge earned his trainer’s license in that country, and then brought his expertise in vaulting and dressage to Canada. He was a national dressage judge in Canada for over 30 years, but it is his significant contribution to the sport of equestrian vaulting that has endeared him to countless athletes and coaches.

In the early 1970’s Borge introduced vaulting to members of the Chilliwack Pony Club. The youngsters were so enthralled with the sport, that the group evolved quickly into one of Canada’s first vaulting clubs, The Cheam Vaulters. In 1972 Borge founded the country’s first provincial vaulting association, the Equestrian Vaulting Association of BC, because he believed that the future of the sport depended on groups working together for their mutual benefit.

Borge’s accomplishments as a coach and lunge were instrumental in bringing many Canadian vaulters to the elite athlete level. His vaulters were among the first provincial and national vaulting champions in Canada and several went on to represent this country at the world championships. Even today some of Borge’s vaulters remain among Canada’s top competitors, coaches, lungers and judges. Forty-five years after he first brought vaulting to his community, Borge’s legacy continues to grow as the sport of vaulting can now be found in Canadian provinces from coast to coast.