

HCBC 2015 Junior Athlete of the Year Nomination
NATALIE ALVES

Natalie Alves was born and raised in Mission BC. She is a member of HCBC, AAHABC, AHA and EC. In addition Natalie has belonged to many local clubs as well as 4H Canada.

In March of 2015 Natalie received the Equine Canada Gillian Wilson Junior Equestrian of the Year for 2014. The Junior Equestrian of the Year Award is given annually to an athlete who has excelled in equestrian competition while demonstrating exceptional talent, horsemanship, sportsmanship and dedication to the sport. It's important to recognize that this award is given annually to only one equestrian and the nominees span every discipline in Canada. Natalie graciously accepted this award at the Gala and represented her clubs, community and province with humility and grace.

Natalie is a talented equestrian who competes locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. In 2015 she attended shows in Langley BC, Scottsdale Arizona and Brandon Manitoba. Natalie and her equine partner Shake It Up Baby, also known as Stella, compete in multiple disciplines including Half Arabian English Show Hack and Ladies Side Saddle. This year has been particularly meaningful to Natalie. In March 2015, Stella suffered from a severe colic and underwent surgery to save her life. Natalie cared for her daily during the 90 days of stall rest. Natalie and Stella began to ride together again in June with the guidance of her vets. In August Stella was given the clear to compete and together they brought home 5 Canadian National Championships. An incredible accomplishment on its own, but considering the circumstances, amazing!

In addition to these accomplishments, Natalie spent much of 2015 riding and showing horses owned by others, both in hand and under saddle, in over 20 different classes including sport horse, hunter pleasure and halter. One of these horses is a beautiful hunter mare named FS Love Story owned by Susan Barillaro. Natalie rode the 6 year old mare to a Canadian National Championship in Purebred Hunter Pleasure.

Natalie is an active volunteer. She has performed many jobs including ring stewarding, ribbons/gates, year-end banquet, fundraising initiatives and youth volunteer recruitment. Natalie received the AAHABC Outstanding Youth Volunteer Service award. Natalie is a regional vice director for Region 17. She was recently recognized by AHYA as the 2nd runner up for Youth of the Year for North America, being short listed from over 3000 youth members. Natalie has made us proud representing Canada performing as the official flag bearer at many shows including Canadian Nationals this year.

Natalie is a 4 year HCBC High School Program participant recognized for Equestrian, Academic and Volunteer Excellence. Natalie was extremely honoured to be selected as a recipient for the 2015 HCBC Scholarship.

Natalie graduated in 2015 with 5 years of honour status. Now completing her first semester at UFV, Natalie continues to demonstrate academic excellence.

Natalie would be a worthy recipient for the HCBC Junior Athlete of the Year! She is a third time nominee in this category and last year as a junior competitor. Thank you for your consideration.