



**New Brunswick Equestrian Association  
Long Term Equestrian Development (LTED) Program  
DRESSAGE  
2020**

**Preamble:**

Due to the unique circumstances presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, we've decided on a format for the dressage LTED program, offering participants the safest possible program. With competitions in limbo and travel among venues problematic, the program provides a learning platform with which everyone could feel comfortable, including facility owners, riders, parents, coaches, and organizers.

The program offers SMART goals for each rider – specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound. Each rider can choose specific dressage levels, tests, and scores s/he wants to attain, and choose where s/he and the horse could be by October. Dressage New Brunswick plans to host their September and October competitions as usual. These competitions can be incorporated into the long-term summer goals for LTED riders.

To those ends, the LTED for Dressage is offering a new plan for 2020 - a **Test Ride Clinic** Format.

**New to dressage?**

- Want to try riding a dressage test for the first time?
- Want to see what showing in the dressage ring is like without the pressure of competition?
- Want to learn ring craft and the subtle techniques that can make or break a score?
- Want a judge's feedback without the fuss of showing?
- Want to see improvement over the summer from July through October?
- Want to prepare to compete at the DNB shows that are planning to run in September and October?

**Experienced dressage rider?**

- Want to give your young horse some show ring/test experience without all the fuss?
- Want to see if you're ready to move up a level?
- Need help with new requirements of the next level?
- Want to hone your ring craft and learn how to polish your performance?
- Need help with new figures or movements?
- Need feedback because you're without eyes on the ground or regular coaching?
- Need goals for the summer? Want to measure your training from June through October? Want to be ready for DNB shows by fall?

**Sign up for the LTED Dressage program for 2020!**

## **FORMAT:**

Twice a month, the LTED Competition Coach Specialist and EC judge Donna McInnis, will conduct a test ride clinic. Choose and learn your test in advance. On clinic day, warm up and then ride the test in front of “judge Donna” and her scribe. Donna will then conduct a short training session, where she will provide feedback and work with the horse and rider on exercises for improvement. The rider may then elect to ride the test again. Score sheets will be marked and returned to the rider, just as at a show.

Two weeks later, Donna will return, and the rider may elect to re-ride the same test to see if homework has paid off, or ride another one. Again, feedback and coaching will be offered and the rider may re-ride the test again if desired. This pattern will repeat from July through September.

Riders will enjoy the formality and feedback of riding in front of a judge, with the comfort of being at home or at a local venue. The every-two-weeks, structure allows for consistent feedback, motivation for training, and the opportunity to progress with support. The rider can regularly present his/her training in front of a judge’s eye and develop show ring experience without the cost of competition, while experiencing the typical every-other-weekend show schedule that upper level riders know.

## **WHERE:**

Venues will depend on the overall pool of participants. In some areas, riders may need to trailer to a venue but will need only unload, ride, and depart. In other cases, there may be enough participants at one locale to have Donna travel to you. Enlist your stable mates and friends in your area and form a group at a common location.

While a 20m x 60m arena with dressage fence is ideal and a 20m x 40m ring is useful, arenas need not be regulation size, as long as letters are posted. Some latitude will be granted in terms of marks and comments to allow for non-regulation sizes. Indoor arenas are not necessary; most of the big dressage shows are 100% outdoor. We might as well get that full experience too!

Venues must be following the [NBEA Covid-19 biosecurity protocols for non-competitive events](#), as participants will need to follow [LTED participant protocols](#) and be able to provide a [self-declaration form](#) as well.

## **WHEN:**

The test ride clinics will be held every two weeks from July through September. Dates and times will be coordinated between Donna and the participants. **Riders must commit to the entire season** of test ride clinics.

Each ride will consist of one test followed by a short coaching session. The rider may then re-ride the test or opt for a little more coaching time. This format will be repeated each time, and the rider may elect to ride different tests or move up a level as the summer progresses.

## **WHO:**

The test ride format is designed for every level of horse and rider, from Walk-Trot to Grand Prix. Because each rider is riding in an individual session, the level and test is his/her choice for each clinic.

## WHAT IS NEEDED?

- Rider must be a current NBEA member in good standing.
- Horse must have vaccinations for flu, rhino, strangles, and a negative Coggins result – all 2020.
- Rider should have Rider Level 3 or above – see below.
- Rider should be working on a regular basis with an NCCP current coach.
- Rider/parent must sign acknowledgement of risk, declaration of compliance, and waiver documents

## HOW MUCH?

- Registration for the program: \$75 for the season
- Cost per clinic:
  - Walk-Trot, Training, First Level: \$25 (subsidized by LTED funding)
  - Second Level and above: \$50

## WHAT ELSE?

Riders who do not have a Rider Level or who wish to test for a higher Rider Level can discuss preparation with Donna. Rider Level testing will be made available to participants at the end of the summer with some funding support.

Riders can make the test ride experience as formal or informal as desired. Young horses and new riders may benefit from braiding and show clothes for the experience, but these are not necessary. Clean, workmanlike turn-out is sufficient. Test callers may be used if biosecurity protocols are followed.

At this point, Dressage New Brunswick is planning to run their September and October competitions at the PLP in Sussex. LTED participants may arrange for onsite support from the LTED coach with fees subsidized by the LTED program. Details will be arranged later in the summer.

**DEADLINE:** Registration must be received by **June 21th, 2020.**

We are lucky to have a highly qualified horsewoman to lead the LTED for dressage. **Donna McInnis** is an NCCP Competition Coach Specialist in dressage, in addition to being a western competition coach. She is also the only EC certified dressage judge in New Brunswick, and one of only two in Atlantic Canada.

Donna's coaching accomplishments include riders of all ages and stages, on all types of horses. She has coached riders to provincial championships and the North American Young Rider team. She has coached the New Brunswick team at the Canadian Interprovincial Equestrian Championships to medals, including team gold.

The former owner of D&D Stables, Donna spends the winter months training, competing, and working with international judges in Wellington, FL. She is currently working with Celtic, her Fourth level horse, and getting to know her new fellow, Fonzie, whom she recently purchased in Poland.

