

ALISON GALLAGHER

Alison is a Level 2 Dressage Coach, a Recorded Dressage Judge and co-owner of the Wendy's Restaurant on McAllister Dr. in Saint John. She and her husband, Michael, started Gallaway Ridge Training Centre (now Evergreen Stables) in Hampton, NB, and made significant contributions to the development of equine sport in New Brunswick.

It's official..

"I started out riding furry little ponies with the local farm kids where I grew up in Ontario. Our bridles were braided binder-twine and most of the time we rode bareback through the fields and in the woods."

Personally speaking..

"I really enjoy teaching and judging. I have about 10 students now and judge about 6-8 show a year. That's about as much as my schedule can handle.

"When I was younger and we were starting the GRTC, I taught several hours a day, trained a few horses regularly, and managed the stable. Both of our kids, Denielle and Adam, virtually grew up in the barn. Denielle has kept on with her interest in all things equine while Adam has found another niche in life using his artistic eye and hands to build homes for people."

Accomplishments & Goals

Best competitive accomplishments so far? "I was 3rd in the Canadian Championships at the Medium 2 level and won every provincial championship up to that level in New Brunswick."

Best non-competitive accomplishments? "I schooled and trained my own horses up to the Prix St. Georges level, with help from Ashley Holzer."

Short-term goals? "Maintaining my Recorded Judge status."

Long-term goals? "To support developing riders and show organizers. Allowing lower level shows to use a Recorded Judge helps to keep the show's expenses down and provides a trained and educated eye to evaluate the competitors and provide useful and comprehensive feedback on their progress."

Obstacles, Heros and Future Plans

"A combination of a herniated disc in my spine and some arthritic issues meant that I had to stop riding myself. Now I stay involved with horses through my coaching and judging.

"My 'heroes' include Ashley Holzer - whose training, riding and coaching I deeply admire; my daughter Denielle Gallagher - who has matured into a lovely young woman, accomplished rider and horsewoman, and devoted mother to two of my grandchildren; and my friend Ceci Snow - who has been by my side through thick and thin.



"For now I plan on continuing with my coaching and judging and watching Denny's career soar."

Quotable notes...

"My family and my friends are the most important aspects of my life."

Factoids

- Recent horses - Gallaway's Lestat & Gallaway's Uptown Girl
- Greatest joy - my children and grandchildren
- Secret indulgence - planning a dream trip to Australia with my BFF (Ceci)

More...

- Competitive discipline - Dressage
- Previous horses - several

And More...

- Hobbies / interests - making quilts, creating jewellery, and reading
- Favourite book - anything by Christopher Paolini
- Favourite music - Yanni 'Live at the Acropolis'